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Prevention of armed conflict

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Question of Cyprus

Questions relating to information

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations

Culture of peace

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Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Security Council
Sixtieth year

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Letter dated 16 December 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the following documents adopted at the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 5 and 6 Dhu Al Qa'dah 1426 H (7 and 8 December 2005):

- Makkah Al-Mukarramah Declaration
- Final communiqué
- Ten-year Programme of Action to Meet the Challenges Facing the Muslim Ummah in the Twenty-first Century
- Report of the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference entitled "New Vision for the Muslim World: Solidarity in Action"
- Report of the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on the cause of Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif
- Final and approved recommendations of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Commission of Eminent Persons

(see annexes).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the present letter and its annexes to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 12, 14, 15, 19, 33, 40, 42, 43, 50, 52, 54, 56, 66, 69, 70, 71, 73, 108, 110 and 120, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Fawzi A. **Shobokshi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annexes to the letter dated 16 December 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic, English and French]

Annex I

The Makkah declaration of the OIC Summit Conference

We, the kings, heads of state and government, and emirs of the member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), meeting in the Third Session of the Extraordinary of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah from 5 to 6 Dul Qaada 1426H (Dec. 7-8, 2005), declare:

We praise high the Name of Almighty Allah, who has blessed us with the grace of gathering together on the soil of this hallowed land, cradle of the revelation of Islam and its message, and Qibla of all Muslims, from which the light of Islam shone forth to guide humanity to the path of prosperity and peace, thus enabling the foundations to be laid of an Islamic civilization that was able to bring a much-needed, timely, and decisive contribution to human civilization.

Whereas the purport of the lofty essence of Islam was to ultimately bring the world out of the darkness of ignorance, oppression, and tyranny and into the light of truth, justice, developing sciences and knowledge, and peaceful co-existence, we find ourselves today at an age of muddled concepts, misguided values, and pervasive ignorance, as diseases and epidemics gain ever-greater grounds, injustice takes hold, and man's environment grows despoiled by the day. More than ever before, we stand in dire need of a fresh vision to turn the tide and the Ummah, as Almighty Allah has rightfully ordained, into a guiding beacon and source of light that radiates forth science, knowledge, and morality for the benefit of all humanity.

Protecting our Islamic identity, our basic values, and the higher interests of the Ummah can only be achieved through the sincere loyalty of Muslims to true Islam and their commitment to its original principles and values as their cherished way of life. Only then will the Ummah be able to rise to the challenge of playing an instrumental, proactive role in the service of humanity and human civilization.

Therefore, our conscience throbs in deep synchronicity with the hearts and minds of the Ummah as expressed by its scholars and intellectuals — may God bless them on our behalf — in their meeting only weeks before this summit conference. Thus are we only too aware of the political, developmental, social, cultural and educational challenges they brought to the fore; only too aware are we of the internal and external threats that have helped to exacerbate the Ummah's current plight, as they not only menace its very future but also that of the whole of humanity and civilization.

These challenges must, therefore, be dealt with through a strategic vision, which needs to plan for the future of the Ummah just as it needs to maintain a careful monitoring of international developments so as to gradually refine itself into a forward-looking vision that enables the Muslim world to tackle the challenges of the 21st century by leveraging the collective will and Joint Islamic Action.

At this stage, we are consequently called upon to take a pause for a sincere and firm reflection on reforming the Ummah, which is a process that starts with reforming the self by rallying round a common stand based on Almighty Allah's Holy Qur'an and the Noble Tradition of His Prophet (PBUH). This reform process should then naturally end in a staunch counteraction of any miscreants who would wantonly sow evil sedition, who would misguide and mislead, and would distort the loftiest tenets of our Islamic faith enshrined in its intrinsic call for love, peace, harmony, and the civilized way out. How can they speak and act for such perverted ideas entrenched as they are in ignorance, isolationism, hatred, and bloodletting?

Nevertheless, our Muslim Ummah is called upon to meet today for the highest good and right in affirmation of Almighty Allah's words enjoining us to: "Hold fast to Allah's rope [in

unity] and not to be divided". And that unity requires our scholars and experts of jurisprudence to unify their stand on exposing the corruption of these miscreants and the falsehood of their claims in a determined show of strength and undivided condemnation.

While we affirm, in this regard, that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is a global phenomenon that is not confined to any particular religion, race, color, or country, and that can in no way be justified or rationalized, we are determined — with Almighty Allah's help and grace — to develop our national laws and legislations to criminalize every single terrorist practice and every other practice leading to the financing or instigation of terrorism. Similarly, we are also called upon to redouble and orchestrate international efforts to combat terrorism, including the establishment of an International Counter-Terrorism Center as endorsed by the Riyadh International Conference on Combating Terrorism.

Even so, all the governments and peoples of the Ummah are unanimous in their conviction that reform and development are the priority to which all efforts should be channeled within a framework that is intimately molded in our Islamic social make-up. At the same time this framework needs to remain in harmony with the achievements of human civilization and steeped in the principles of consultation, justice, and equality in its drive to achieve good governance, widen political participation, establish the rule of law, protect human rights, apply social justice, transparency, and accountability, fight corruption, and build civil society institutions.

Indeed, the Islamic civilization is an integral part of human civilization, based on the ideals of dialogue, moderation, justice, righteousness, and tolerance as noble human values that counteract bigotry, isolationism, tyranny, and exclusion. It is therefore of paramount importance to celebrate and consecrate these magnanimous values in our Muslim discourse inside and outside our societies.

As we reaffirm our unwavering rejection of terrorism, and all forms of extremism and violence, we strongly voice our feelings of stigmatization and concern over the growing phenomenon of Islamophobia around the world as a form of racism and discrimination and declare our resolve to work hard to combat this phenomenon with all available means.

Given the deep import of economic and social cooperation in strengthening solidarity among Islamic states, maximizing the advantages and averting the pitfalls of globalization, we consider the eradication of illiteracy, diseases and epidemics, and the fight to alleviate poverty in Islamic states as urgent, strategic objectives requiring us to drum up all necessary resources.

If we are to succeed in achieving our desired objectives, then of necessity we must show commitment and credibility in our Joint Islamic Action. Therefore, proceeding from a new vision of the Muslim world that tackles head on international challenges, as well as political, economic, social, and cultural variables in a manner that safeguards the values and interests of the Ummah, we adopt and endorse the Ten-Year Program of Action to face the challenges of the Muslim Ummah in the 21st century.

To Almighty Allah we pray that He may guide us onto the right path, crown our endeavors with success, and bless our lives with abundant prosperity.

"Allah has promised those who believe among you and who have done good deeds that He will surely empower them in the Earth just as He did with their predecessors and that He will surely establish for them (therein) their religion which He has preferred for them and that He will surely substitute for them, after their fear, security (for) they worship Me, not associating anything with Me. But whoever disbelieves after that-then those indeed are the evil doers." (Al-Nour 53, True are the Words of Allah).

Annex II

Final Communique of the Third OIC Summit

Final Communique of the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, "Meeting the Challenges of the 21st Century, Solidarity in Action," Makkah Al-Mukarramah, 5-6 Dhul Qa'adah 1426H, December 7-8, 2005

In response to the kind invitation addressed from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz to his brothers and sister, the leaders of the Muslim Ummah, the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference was held in Makkah Al Mukarramah on 5-6 Dhul Qa'adah 1426 H (7-8 December 2005).

The Summit Conference was inaugurated by recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an. Then the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz, delivered a speech in which he stressed that a strong Muslim believer in his Lord does not despair in God's mercy and that Islamic unity will never be realized through the shedding of blood as misguided deviants assume. Extremism, fanaticism and excommunication will not take root in a land endowed with the spirit of tolerance and the dissemination of moderation. He affirmed his aspiration to the rise of a unified Islamic Ummah; a rule that eradicates injustice and oppression; comprehensive Islamic development targeting the removal of destitution and poverty; the spread of reason and moderation that characterize the tolerance of Islam; Muslim inventors and industrialists; an advanced Islamic technology; and to a Muslim youth who equally works for this life and the hereafter.

The Conference was also addressed by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, His Excellency Dato Seri Abdullah bin Ahmed Badawi, in his capacity as Chairman of the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference. In his statement, he stressed that the Muslim Ummah could no longer be in a state of denial and that the causes for the miserable conditions in which it finds itself today must be confronted and addressed in a holistic manner, inter alia, through building capacities as well as the projection of the true image of Islam and its civilizational approaches. He informed that Malaysia had offered to host meetings to discuss good governance and the establishment of a rapid response mechanism to alleviate the impact of natural disasters in OIC Member States.

Addressing the opening session, Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, reviewed the current situation of the OIC and the appropriate place it is aspiring to occupy on the international scene, taking into account the huge global developments and the need for strategic planning so as to keep abreast of these developments in such a way that safeguards the supreme interests of the Muslim world and enables it to preserve its identity, civilization and lofty human values as a fundamental factor for the cohesion of the fabric of the Muslim societies and the strengthening of their social stability.

Having taken cognizance of the reports and recommendations submitted to it by the Meeting of Foreign Ministers Preparatory to the Extraordinary Summit, and having discussed the issues on its agenda, the Conference decided to adopt the Makkah Declaration and the Ten-Year Programme of Action to Meet the Challenges Facing

the Ummah in the 21st Century, and declared as follows:

I-In the Intellectual Field

The Summit reaffirmed that Islam is a religion of moderation which rejects bigotry, extremism and fanaticism, and underlined in this connection the importance of combating deviant ideology using all available means, besides developing educational curricula that firmly establish the values of understanding, tolerance, dialogue and multilateralism in accordance with the tenets of Islam.

The Conference stressed that dialogue among civilizations based on mutual respect, understanding and equality between people, is a prerequisite for establishing a world marked by tolerance, cooperation, peace and confidence among nations.

The Conference called for combating pseudo-religious and sectarian extremism, and for the need to refrain from accusing followers of Islamic schools of heresy, and reaffirmed the need to deepen dialogue and promote restraint, moderation and tolerance and issuance of Fatwas by those not eligible to issue them.

The Conference underlined the importance of reforming the Islamic Fiqh Academy such as to make it the jurisprudential authority of the Ummah.

II-In the Political Field

The Conference stressed the importance of the question of Palestine as the central cause of the Muslim Ummah. The ending of the Israeli occupation of the Arab and Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan and the remaining occupied Lebanese territories in compliance with Security Council Resolution 425, constitutes a vital request for the entire Muslim Ummah. This question should unify the Muslim position regarding the comprehensive settlement of the question of Palestine in accordance with the United Nations resolutions, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Roadmap. Efforts should be made to regain the city of Al-Quds, safeguard its Islamic and historical character, preserve and protect Al-Aqsa Mosque and other sacred sites, counter the judaization of the Holy City, support the Palestinian institutions in the city, and establish Al-Aqsa University in the city of Al-Quds. It Conference called for support to the Waqf of Al-Quds Fund with each Muslim individual contributing one dollar, besides contributions by Member States in order to preserve the holy sites in the city of Al-Quds, including in particular Al-Aqsa Mosque, safeguard the sacred city's cultural and historic landmarks and Arab-Islamic identity, and strengthen the steadfastness of its population so that it may regain its character as a city of coexistence and tolerance and the capital of the State of Palestine. The Conference reiterated working hand in hand with the international community to cease and dismantle settlements in the occupied territories. It also called for a halt in the building of the Separation Wall and its demolition in accordance with the Opinion of the International Court of Justice.

The Summit Conference discussed the developments in Iraq and welcomed the Arab Initiative for National Accord among the Iraqi parties, and hoped that the forthcoming legislative elections would lead to a constitutional Iraqi government so as to safeguard the country's unity and territorial integrity to ensure peace, security, stability and enable the brotherly Iraq to play its civilizational role on the Arab, Islamic and international arenas and condemned the terrorist violence faced by the Iraqi people. It supported the political process and the completion of building constitutional institutions as well as Iraqi reconstruction. The Conference further stressed the importance of the role of the UN in Iraq in cooperation with the OIC.

The Conference extended its support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their inalienable right to self-determination in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. It called for respect of the human rights of the Kashmiri people and agreed to provide all possible political and diplomatic support to the true representatives of the Kashmiri people in their struggle against foreign occupation.

The Conference expressed its firm determination to act in solidarity with the Muslim Turkish Cypriot people and their rightful cause, through supporting the efforts within the UN framework to find a comprehensive, fair and lasting settlement of the problem on the basis of political equality, as well as through taking concrete steps towards the elimination of all restrictions isolating the Turkish Cypriots.

The Conference again welcomed the comprehensive peace agreement in Sudan and the resolution adopted by the 10th Islamic Summit Conference regarding the creation of a Fund for the Reconstruction of War-Affected areas in Sudan, and urged Member States to effectively contribute to this Fund.

The Conference reiterated its support for the Somali Government in its efforts to restore security and achieve reconstruction.

The Conference also reiterated its condemnation of the continued Armenian aggression against the sovereignty of Azerbaijan and its territorial integrity and called for complete and unconditional withdrawal from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

The Conference emphasized commitment to and credibility of Joint Islamic Action through implementation of Islamic resolutions, particularly as regard the display of Islamic solidarity in the face of natural disasters, etc, and countering foreign threats that jeopardize the security of any OIC Member State in a collective manner and rejected unilateral sanctions, which may be imposed against any Member State. The Conference also stressed the need to reform the OIC with a view to further energizing its institutions and enhance its role.

The Conference stressed the need to condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, reject any justification for it, and declared its solidarity with Member States which have been victims of terrorism and again stated the necessity to criminalize all terrorist practices and all forms of their support, finance and instigation, considering terrorism a global phenomenon not related to any religion, race, color or country. The Conference emphasized also the importance of joining

international efforts to combat this phenomenon, and to endeavor to implement the recommendations adopted by the International Counter-Terrorism Conference, held in Riyadh in 2005, including the creation of an International Center for Combating Terrorism, as well as the need to differentiate between terrorism and the legitimate resistance to foreign occupation. The Conference also stressed the need to support the efforts aimed at drawing up an International Code of Conduct for Combating Terrorism, as well as the need to hold an international conference for special session of the United Nations General Assembly to affirm international agreement on laying down a coherent strategy for combating this dangerous phenomenon.

The Conference underlined the need to collectively endeavor to reflect the noble Islamic values, counter Islamophobia, defamation of Islam and its values and desecration of Islamic holy sites, and to effectively coordinate with States as well as regional and international institutions and organizations to urge them to criminalize this phenomenon as a form of racism.

The Conference expressed its concern at rising hatred against Islam and Muslims in the world and condemned the recent incident of desecration of the image of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) in the media of certain countries and stressed the responsibility of all governments to ensure full respect of all religions and religious symbols and the inapplicability of using the freedom of expression as a pretext to defame religions.

The Conference emphasized the importance of promoting cooperation and dialogue with non-OIC member states with Muslim communities and their true representatives to preserve their rights and continue to carefully monitor the developments.

The Conference called for considering the possibility of establishing an independent permanent body to promote human rights in Member States as well as the possibility in preparing an Islamic Charter on Human Rights in accordance with the provisions of the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam and interact with the United Nations and other relevant international bodies. The Conference further highlighted importance of promoting women's rights and education and welcomed Turkey's offer to host the First OIC Women's Conference.

The Conference stressed the need for the media in the Muslim world to project the true and bright image of our Islamic religion, and to effectively deal with international media to attain this objective. It also called for the revitalization of the Standing Committee for Information and Culture (COMIAC) and underlined the importance of extending support to the Digital Solidarity Fund in order to develop information society in the Muslim counries.

III-In the Economic and Social Field

The Conference emphasized the need to make optimal use of the human, natural and economic resources of the Muslim world in order to promote this cooperation, consider the possibility of establishing a Free Trade Area among the Member States, and accede and implement the agreements and resolutions concluded, and support the

activities of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC).

The Conference stressed the need to achieve a considerable increase in intra-OIC trade, and welcomed the establishment of the Islamic Corporation for Trade Finance in response to the initiative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques launched at the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference, calling for this institution to expeditious start its work. The Conference also called for increase in the capital of the Islamic Development Bank in order to enable it to meet the needs of Member States, and reaffirmed the vital role played by the private sector in development.

The Conference underlined the importance of cooperation in the fields of poverty alleviation, capacity building, elimination of illiteracy, and eradication of diseases and epidemics such as AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis and the need to mobilize the necessary resources to this end by establishing a special fund within the IDB. The Conference mandated the IDB Board of Governors to implement this proposal. With reference to the call of the United Nations Secretary General to eradicate Polio, the Conference stressed the significance of international efforts exerted in this regard, especially that OIC Member States are the most affected by the disease.

The Conference called for support to African development and the NEPAD initiative and decided to set up a Special Programme to this end. It reaffirmed commitment to the Millennium Development Goals by adopting appropriate measures to alleviate poverty in the Member States, and urged creditor States to write off the bilateral and multilateral debts of low-income Member States. The Conference also encouraged Member States' initiatives aimed at promoting economic cooperation with the rest of Member States and with the Least Developed and Low-Income States Members of the OIC.

The Conference decided to take practical steps to achieve scientific and technological development, with a view to supporting sustainable development in OIC Member States. The Conference stressed the importance of the resolutions and recommendations issued by the World Summit on the Information Society held in Tunis, Republic of Tunisia, and called for their implementation in order to reduce the digital gap between States and achieve civilizational progress.

The Conference extended gratitude and appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its generous hospitality and for its continuing support to the OIC and its General Secretariat. It also expressed gratitude and appreciation to the OIC Secretary General for his efforts to bring a new spirit and vision for the Organization marked by efficiency and effectiveness. It also highly commended the officials of the General Secretariat for their professionalism and excellent work and for having performed the task assigned to them with utmost dedication and in a record time.

Annex III

TEN-YEAR PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO MEET THE CHALLENGES FACING THE MUSLIM UMMAH IN THE 21ST CENTURY

THIRD EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE

Makkah al Mukarramah - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
5-6 dhul qa'dah 1426 h 7-8 December 2005

Introduction

The Muslim World is faced with grave political, socio-economic, cultural and scientific challenges with implications for its unity, peace, security and development. OIC Member States would need to cooperate decisively in order to face these challenges and to take necessary initiatives to overcome them. It has therefore become imperative for them to take joint actions within the framework of the OIC, based on common values and ideals so as to revive the Muslim Ummah's pioneering role as a fine example of tolerance and enlightened moderation, and a force for international peace and harmony.

Conscious of these challenges and anxious to bring the Ummah out of its present situation into a new reality marked by greater solidarity and more prosperity to achieve its decisive objectives and aspirations, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz, addressed the pilgrims on Eid Al-Adha Day in 1425 H, and called upon the leaders of the Muslim Ummah to convene an Extraordinary Conference of the leaders of OIC Member States to consider the issues of solidarity and Joint Islamic Action.

In preparation for this Extraordinary Conference, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques invited the scholars and intellectuals of the Ummah to meet in Makkah Al-Mukarramah in order to consider the state of the Ummah, develop visions and concepts and propose optimal solutions to the challenges facing the Ummah in all fields. Accordingly, an elite group of Muslim scholars and intellectuals from different countries met in Makkah Al-Mukarramah from 5 to 7 Shaaban 1426 H (9-11 September 2005) and examined the challenges facing the Ummah in the intellectual, cultural, political, media, economic and developmental fields. They also formulated a number of recommendations to effectively address these challenges.

Based on the views and recommendations of scholars and intellectuals, convinced of the potential for the Muslim Ummah to achieve its renaissance, and in order to take practical steps towards strengthening the bonds of Islamic solidarity, achieve unity of ranks, and project the true image and noble values of Islam and its civilizational approaches, a Ten-Year Programme of Action has been developed, which reviews the most prominent challenges facing the Muslim world today, as well as ways and means to address them in an objective and realistic way in order to serve as a practicable and workable programme for all OIC Member States.

In the intellectual and political fields, there are major issues, such as establishing the values of moderation and tolerance, combating extremism, violence and terrorism, countering Islamophobia, achieving solidarity and cooperation among Member States, conflict prevention, the question of Palestine, the rights of Muslim minorities and communities, and rejecting unilateral sanctions. All of these are issues which require a renewed commitment to be addressed through effective strategies. In this context, special attention needs to be given to Africa, which is the most affected region, due to poverty, diseases, illiteracy, famine, and debt burden.

In the economic and scientific fields, the Ummah needs to achieve higher levels of development and prosperity, given its abundant economic resources and capacities. Priority must be given to enhancing economic cooperation, intra-OIC trade, alleviating poverty in OIC Member States, particularly in conflict-affected areas, and addressing issues related to globalization, economic liberalization, environment, and science and technology.

As for education and culture, there is an urgent need to tackle the spread of illiteracy and low standards of education at all levels as well as a need to redress ideological deviation. In the social field, it is imperative to focus on the rights of women, children and the family.

In implementing the new vision and goals for the Muslim world, the role of the OIC is central, which requires its reform in a way that meets the hopes and aspirations of the Ummah in the 21st Century.

To achieve this new vision and mission for a brighter, more prosperous and dignified future for the Ummah, We, the Kings, Heads of State and Heads of Government of the OIC Member States, decide to adopt the following Ten-Year Programme of Action, with a mid-term review, for immediate implementation:

I. INTELLECTUAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES

I. Political Will

1. Demonstrate the necessary political will in order to translate the anticipated new vision into concrete reality and call upon the Secretary-General to take necessary steps to submit practical proposals to the Member States for consideration and subsequent submission to the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

2. Urge Member States to fully implement the provisions of the OIC Charter and resolutions.

II. Solidarity and Joint Islamic Action

1. Demonstrate strong commitment and credibility in Joint Islamic Action by effective implementation of OIC resolutions, and to focus on the adoption of implementable resolutions until the Ummah reaches its objectives. In this context, the Secretary General should be enabled to fully play his role in following up the implementation of all OIC resolutions.

2. Affirm commitment to Islamic solidarity among the OIC Member States vis-à-vis the challenges and threats faced or experienced by the Muslim Ummah, and request the Secretary General to elaborate a general framework, in consultation with Member States, on their duties and obligations in this regard, including solidarity and support to Member States who are facing threats.

3. Participate and coordinate effectively in all regional and international forums, in order to protect and promote the collective interests of the Muslim Ummah, including UN reform, expanding the Security Council membership, and extending the necessary support to candidatures of OIC Member States to international and regional organizations.

4. Continue to support the issue of Al Quds Al Sharif as a central cause of the OIC and the Muslim Ummah.

5. Reaffirm previous resolutions and decisions of the OIC on Jammu and Kashmir, Cyprus, Nagorno Karabakh and Somalia and demonstrate solidarity with these Muslim peoples in their just causes.

III. Islam - *The Religion of Moderation and Tolerance*

1. Endeavour to spread the correct ideas about Islam as a religion of moderation and tolerance in order to fortify Muslims against extremism and narrow-mindedness.

2. Condemn extremism in all its forms and manifestations, as it contradicts Islamic and human values; and address its political, economic, social, and cultural root-causes, through development programmes and resolution of long-standing conflicts, which are to be faced with rationality, persuasion, and good counsel.

3. Emphasize that inter-civilizational dialogue, based on mutual respect and understanding, and equality amongst people are prerequisites for international peace and security, tolerance, peaceful co-existence, and participation in developing the mechanism for that dialogue.

4. Encourage inter-religious dialogue and underline common values and denominators.

5. Ensure the participation of the OIC and its specialized bodies, as a proactive partner in the dialogue among civilizations and religions, as well as in initiatives and efforts exerted in this regard.

6. Utilize the different mass media in order to serve and defend the causes of the Muslim Ummah, promote the noble principles and values of Islam, and correct misconceptions about it.

7. Strive for the teaching of Islamic education, culture, civilization, and the jurisprudence and literature of difference; call on Member States to cooperate amongst themselves in order to develop balanced educational curricula that promote values of tolerance, human rights, openness, and understanding of other religions and cultures; reject fanaticism and extremism, and establish pride in the Islamic identity.

IV. Multiplicity of Islamic Jurisprudence

1. Underline the need to strengthen dialogue among Islamic Schools, affirm the true faith of their followers and the inadmissibility of accusing them of heresy, as well as the inviolability of their blood, honor and property, as long as they believe in Allah Almighty, in the Prophet (PBUH) and in the other pillars of the Islamic faith, respect the pillars of Islam and do not deny any self-evident tenet of religion.

2. Condemn the audacity of those who are not qualified in issuing religious rulings (fatwa), thereby flouting the tenets and pillars of the religion and the well-established schools of jurisprudence. Consequently, compliance with the principle of fatwa, as approved by scholars, must be observed in line with the relevant provisions of the International Islamic Conference held in Amman in late July 2005 and in the recommendations of the Forum of Muslim Scholars and Intellectuals Preparatory to the Summit convened by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in Makkah Al Mukarramah from 9 to 11 September 2005.

V. The Islamic Fiqh Academy (IFA)

1. Entrust the Secretary General to invite a group from the members of the Islamic Fiqh Academy and eminent Islamic scholars from outside to prepare a detailed study to develop the IFA's work in accordance with the following objectives, for consideration by the ICFM:

   a. Coordinate religious ruling (fatwa) authorities in the Muslim world.

   b. Counter religious and sectarian extremism, refrain from accusing Islamic schools of heresy, emphasize dialogue among them, and strengthen balance, moderation, and tolerance.

   c. Refute fatwas that take Muslims away from the parameters and constants of their religion and its established schools.

VI. Combating terrorism

1. Emphasize the condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, and reject any justification or rationalization for it, consider it as a global phenomenon that is not connected with any religion, race, color, or country, and distinguish it from the legitimate resistance to foreign occupation, which does not sanction the killing of innocent civilians.

2. Introduce comprehensive qualitative changes to national laws and legislations in order to criminalize all terrorist practices as well as all practices to support, finance, or instigate terrorism.

3. Affirm commitment to the OIC Convention on Combating Terrorism, participate actively in international counter-terrorism efforts, and endeavor to implement the recommendations of the International Conference on Combating Terrorism, held in Riyadh in February 2005, including the establishment of an International Center for Combating Terrorism, as well as the recommendations of the Special Meeting of OIC Foreign Ministers on Terrorism, held in Kuala Lumpur in April 2002.

4. Support efforts to develop an International Code of Conduct to Combat Terrorism and to convene an international conference or a special session of the UN General Assembly to reiterate the international consensus on establishing a comprehensive strategy to combat this dangerous phenomenon.

VII. Combating Islamophobia

1. Emphasize the responsibility of the international community, including all governments, to ensure respect for all religions and combat their defamation.

2. Affirm the need to counter Islamophobia, through the establishment of an observatory at the OIC General Secretariat to monitor all forms of Islamophobia, issue an annual report thereon, and ensure cooperation with the relevant Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in order to counter Islamophobia.

3. Endeavor to have the United Nations adopt an international resolution to counter Islamophobia, and call upon all States to enact laws to counter it, including deterrent punishments.

4. Initiate a structured and sustained dialogue in order to project the true values of Islam and empower Muslim countries to help in the war against extremism and terrorism.

VIII. Human Rights and Good Governance:

1. Seriously endeavor to enlarge the scope of political participation, ensure equality, civil liberties and social justice and to promote transparency and accountability, and eliminate corruption in the OIC Member States.

2. Call upon the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers to consider the possibility of establishing an independent permanent body to promote human rights in the Member States, in accordance with the provisions of the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam and to also call for the elaboration of an OIC Charter for

Human Rights. Introduce changes to national laws and regulations in order to guarantee the respect of human rights in Member States.

3. Mandate the OIC General Secretariat to cooperate with other international and regional organizations to guarantee the rights of Muslim Minorities and Communities in non-OIC Member States, and promote close cooperation with the Governments of the States hosting Muslim communities.

IX. Palestine and the Occupied Arab Territories

1. Make all efforts to end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan and the full completion of the Israeli withdrawal from all remaining Lebanese territories, in compliance with Security Council Resolution 425, and extend effective support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent State with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

2. Maintain a united stand on the comprehensive resolution of the Palestinian question according to OIC resolutions, UN resolutions, including UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, 1515 and UN General Assembly

Resolution 194, the Arab Peace Initiative, and the Roadmap, in coordination and consultation with the UN, the Quartet, and other stakeholders, such as to make full withdrawal as a prerequisite for establishing normal relations with Israel, and for providing the OIC with a greater role in establishing peace.

3. Emphasize the central importance of the cause of Al-Quds for the Muslim Ummah, the need to establish the Palestinian rights in the city, preserve its heritage as well as its Arab and Islamic identity as a symbol of solidarity and the meeting point of divine religions; underline the sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque and its premises against violations and the need to protect the other Islamic and Christian holy places, counter the judaization of the Holy City, and support the efforts of Al-Quds Committee under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Mohamed VI; call for support to Baytmal Al-Quds and Al-Aqsa Fund, support the steadfastness of Al-Quds population and institutions, and establish Al-Aqsa University in Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

4. Extend full support to the Palestinian Authority in its efforts to negotiate for the inalienable Palestinian rights and extend necessary assistance to ensure control of all Palestinian territories, international crossings, reopen Gaza airport and seaport, and connect Gaza with the West Bank in order to ensure free movement of the Palestinians.

5. Work together with the international community to compel Israel to stop and dismantle its settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories and the occupied Syrian Golan; remove the racist separation Wall built inside the Palestinian territories, including within and around the city of Al-Quds, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and the Opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

X. Conflict Prevention, Conflict Resolution and Post-conflict Peace Building

1. Strengthen the role of the OIC in conflict prevention, confidence-building, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation in OIC Member States as well as in conflict situations involving Muslim communities.

2. Enhance cooperation among the OIC Member States and between the OIC and international and regional organizations in order to protect the rights and interests of the Member States in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and post-conflict peace-building.

XI. Reform of the OIC

1. Reform the OIC through restructuring, and consider changing its name, review its Charter and activities and provide it with highly qualified manpower, in such a manner as to promote its role, reactivate its institutions and strengthen its relations with the officially recognized NGOs in the OIC Member States; empower the Secretary-General to discharge his duties and provide him with sufficient flexibility and the resources that enable him to carry out the tasks assigned to him and strengthen all OIC specialized and affiliated organs in order to allow them to play their aspired role, and reinforce coordination with the General Secretariat, and request it to review the activities of these organs and recommend the dissolution of those that prove to be inefficient.

2. Establish a mechanism for the follow-up of resolutions by creating an Executive Body, comprising the Summit and Ministerial Troikas, the OIC host country, and the General Secretariat. The Member States concerned should be invited to participate in the deliberations of these meetings.

3. Mandate the Secretary-General to prepare a study to strengthen the role of Islamic Solidarity Fund and develop it, and submit the study to the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

4. Urge Member States to pay in full and on time their mandatory contributions to the General Secretariat and Subsidiary Organs, in accordance with relevant resolutions, in order to enable Member States to avail themselves of the facilities and services offered by OIC subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions.

2. DEVELOPMENT, SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC ISSUES

I. Economic Cooperation

1. Call upon the Member States to sign and ratify all existing OIC trade and economic agreements, and to implement the provisions of the relevant OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among OIC Member States.

2. Mandate COMCEC to promote measures to expand the scope of intra-OIC trade, and to consider the possibility of establishing a Free Trade Area between the Member States in order to achieve greater economic integration to raise it to a percentage of 20% of the overall trade volume during the period covered

by the plan, and call on the Member States to support its activities and to participate in those activities at the highest possible level with delegations possessing the necessary expertise.

3. Promote endeavors for institutionalized and enhanced cooperation between OIC and regional and international institutions working in the economic and commercial fields.

4. Support OIC Member States in their efforts to accede to the World Trade Organization (WTO), and promote concerted positions between the Member States within the WTO.

5. Call upon the OIC Member States to facilitate the freedom of movement of businessmen and investors across their borders.

6. Support expanding electronic commerce among the OIC Member States and call on the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry to strengthen its activities in the field of data and expertise exchanges between chambers of commerce of the Member States.

7. Call upon the Member States to coordinate their environmental policies and positions in international environmental fora so as to prevent any adverse effects of such policies on their economic development.

.I. Supporting the Islamic Development Bank (IDB)

1. Establish a special fund within the IDB in order to help address and alleviate poverty, and provide job opportunities; and commission the IDB Board of Governors to establish this special fund, including mechanisms for its financing.

2. Mandate the Islamic Development Bank to coordinate with the OIC General Secretariat in order to make the necessary contacts with the World Health Organization and other relevant institutions to draw up a programme for combating diseases and epidemics, to be financed through the special fund that will be created within the IDB.

3. Commission the IDB Board of Governors to take necessary measures for ensuring a substantial increase in the Bank's authorized, subscribed, and paid-up capital, so as to enable it to strengthen its role in providing financial support and technical assistance to OIC Member States, and strengthen the Islamic Corporation for Trade Finance recently established within the IDB.

4. Urge the IDB to develop its mechanisms and programmes aimed at cooperation with the private sector and to consider streamlining and activating its decision-making process.

5. Urge the IDB and its institutions to promote investment opportunities and intra-OIC trade, and to conduct other feasibility studies to provide the necessary information to develop and promote joint ventures.

III. Social solidarity in the face of natural disasters

1. Islam advocates solidarity with, and assistance to, all the needy without discrimination, which requires the Islamic States to develop and adopt a clear strategy on Islamic relief action and support the trend towards cooperation and coordination between individual relief efforts of Islamic States and Islamic civil society institutions on the one hand, and international civil society institutions and organizations on the other hand.

2. Help countries affected by these disasters to rebuild their buffer stocks.

IV. Supporting development and poverty alleviation in Africa

1. Promote activities aimed at achieving economic and social development in African countries, including supporting industrialization, energizing trade and investment, transferring technology, alleviating their debt burden and poverty, and eradicating diseases; welcome the New Economic Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), adopt to this end, a special programme for the development of Africa.

2. Call upon the Member States to participate in international efforts to support programmes aimed at alleviating poverty and **capacity-building** in the Least-Developed Member States of the OIC.

3. Urge donor Member States to cancel bilateral and multilateral debts to low-income Member States.

4. Urge international specialized institutions and organizations to exert greater efforts to alleviate poverty in the Least-Developed Member States and assist Muslim societies, the refugees and displaced in the OIC Member States, and Muslim Minorities and Communities in non-OIC Member States; urge States to contribute to the World Fund for Solidarity and Combating Poverty.

V. Higher Education, Science and Technology

1. Effectively improve and reform educational institutions and curricula in all levels, link postgraduate studies to the comprehensive development plans of the Islamic World. At the same time, priority should be given to science and technology and facilitating academic interaction and exchange of knowledge among the academic institutions of Member States, and urge the Member States to strive for quality education that promotes creativity, innovation, and research and development

2. Assimilate highly-qualified Muslims within the Muslim World, develop a comprehensive strategy in order to utilize their expertise and prevent brain migration phenomenon.

3. Entrust the General Secretariat to study the creation of an OIC Award for Outstanding Scientific Achievements by Muslim scientists.

4. Call upon Islamic countries to encourage research and development programmes, taking into account that the global percentage of this activity is 2% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and request Member States to ensure that their individual contribution is not inferior to half of this percentage.

5. Take advantage of the important results of the World Summit on Information Society, held in Tunis, in which all Muslim States actively participated with a view to close the digital gap between the developed and developing States and request the General Secretariat to follow up these results in order to build the capacities of Member States to adhere to the information society which, in turn, will sustain development in Muslim States.

6. Encourage public and private national research institutions to invest in technology capacity-building, in areas of advanced technologies, such as the acquisition of nuclear technology for peaceful uses.

7. Review the performance of the OIC-affiliated universities so as to improve their effectiveness and efficiency, and call for participation in the two Waqfs (Endowments) dedicated to the two universities in Niger and Uganda, and provide support to the International Islamic University in Malaysia.

8. Call upon the Member States to extend enhanced support to the Islamic University of Technology in Bangladesh in order to enable it to contribute more towards capacity building of the OIC Member States through human resources development.

9. Urge the IDB to further enhance its programme of scholarships for outstanding students and Hi-Tech specializations aimed at developing the scientific, technical, and research capabilities of scientists and researchers in the Member States.

VI. Rights of Women, Youth, Children, and the Family in the Muslim World

1. Strengthen laws aimed at enhancing the advancement of women in Muslim societies in economic, cultural, social, and political fields, in accordance with Islamic values of justice and equality; and aimed also at protecting women from all forms of violence and discrimination and adhering to the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, in line with the Islamic values of justice and equality.

2. Give special attention to women's education and female literacy.

3. Expedite developing "The Covenant on the Rights of Women in Islam", in accordance with Resolution No. 60/27-P and the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam.

4. Strive to provide free and quality basic education for all children.

5. Strengthen laws aimed at preserving the rights of children, enjoying the highest possible health levels, taking effective measures in order to eradicate poliomyelitis and protect them from all forms of violence and exploitation.

6. Encourage the Member States to sign and ratify the OIC Covenant on the Rights of the Child in Islam, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child in Islam, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its annexed Optional Protocols, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of

Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol with regard to the Girl Child.

7. Call upon all Member States to support and promote youth programmes and youth forums.

8. Call upon the OIC to contribute towards projecting Islam as a religion that guarantees full protection of women's rights and encourages their participation in all walks of life.

9. Accord necessary attention to the family as the principal nucleus of the Muslim society, exert all possible efforts, at all levels, to face up to the contemporary social challenges confronting the Muslim family and affecting its cohesion, on the basis of Islamic values.

10. Establish a Division responsible for Family Affairs within the framework of the General Secretariat's restructuring.

VII. Cultural and Information Exchange among Member States

1. Call upon TV channels and the mass media to deal with international mass media effectively in order to enable the Muslim world to express its perspective on international developments. Call on the mass media in Member States, including satellite channels, to agree on a Code of Ethics that caters for diversity and pluralism and safeguards the Ummah's values and interests. Mandate the Secretary-General to prepare a report to evaluate the current situation of IINA, ISBO, and the OIC Information Department; consider ways and means to activate the role and mechanisms of the media within the framework of the OIC System; and submit proposals, in this regard, to the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers for consideration. Accord attention to Arabic as the language of Qur'an, develop programmes for translation between the languages of the Muslim Ummah, and implement programs of cultural exchanges among the OIC Member States, including Observer States.

2. Strengthen COMIAC in order to give more care to information and cultural issues in Member States. In this context, the Member States should voluntarily support digital solidarity and allow the OIC to actively participate in the efforts to reduce the digital gap.

Annex IV

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SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT

New Vision for the Muslim World: Solidarity in Action
Presented at the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference

Makkah al-Mukarramah
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
7-8 December 2005

INTRODUCTION

Today the Muslim world stands at a historic crossroads amidst global changes and challenges with immense repercussions for its future. In order to chart our course for the future thoroughly we need to consider our past critically.

A clear vision of future Islamic solidarity can be drawn after a survey of the OIC experience and its successes and shortcomings since its beginnings.

From 1969 up until today the OIC went through three stages each covering roughly a decade: the phase of self-searching and realization, the phase of contention for a higher status in world affairs, and the phase of crisis and disorientation.

The first phase of self-searching and self-realization was the initial stage. The OIC came into being in a bipolar world, majority of its members being part of the Non-Aligned Movement. Its original cause was political solidarity that found its expression in the Al-Quds and Palestinian problem.

In the first decade from 1970 to 1980 economic cooperation became the main drive that characterized the OIC activities. Institutional expansion of the OIC together with formulation of policy guidelines highlighted the fact that the OIC was evolving and becoming institutionalized.

This momentum of the 1970s, the decade of oil booms brought the OIC to the second phase between 1980 and 1990. This era witnessed the efforts for utilizing solidarity to exert influence in the world affairs. The 1981 Taif and Mecca summit heralded a new path that signified the Muslim world's realization of its own potential. Concrete actions were envisaged and three standing committees were established in this period. The euphoric feeling in this era, however, was overshadowed by conflicts among some Member States.

The third decade lasted from 1990 until today and characterized with a sense of crisis and disorientation in the face of overwhelming political and economic changes in the world. The bipolar world came to an end, the discourse of "clash of civilizations" came to the fore and as a result this gave rise to Islamophobia. Meanwhile many OIC member states faced imminent political and economic challenges and emerging tensions on a regional as well as global scale.

The global challenges imply, on the part of individual countries, the requirement to consider political reforms aimed at securing rule of law and democratic principles. They also force the economic activities to be concentrated on knowledge, research, technology and innovation.

The focus and performance of OIC is now challenged by an ever-widening scope of issues amidst rapid changes in world affairs. The OIC is in a position to respond to these global challenges. The role the OIC should play in the world scene is now greater and more critical thanks to its vast portfolio of tasks.

From the beginning the concepts of solidarity and cooperation marked the conduct of the OIC that ensured its continuity. Now this continuity needs to be strengthened in response to the challenges that the world in general and the Muslim world in particular face today. The resolute determination and steady exhibition of solidarity is urgently required in the current circumstances for both Muslim states and the OIC as their representative.

Therefore we have before us a new phase: the phase of a new vision and a new future.

It is thus a timely opportunity provided by The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz, who while addressing groups of pilgrims earlier this year, had called upon his brothers, the leaders of the Muslim Ummah, to endeavour to close their ranks and to put an end to the state of disunity and disintegration "suffered by the Muslim world, so that the Ummah may pursue its historic mission, by holding a meeting of the leaders to discuss the issues of "unity" and "joint action". Addressing the leaders of the Ummah he said: "This is a call to face ourselves, to look for what is common between us, to unify the ranks and to strengthen the bonds. This is an appeal launched by a brother of yours who shares with you the same preoccupations, pains, hopes and belief in Allah Almighty".

During this unprecedented call, His Majesty King Abdullah had also highlighted the need to "hold meetings of the Ummah's intellectuals and scholars in preparation for the forthcoming Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference, in order to examine the overall situation of the Muslim world, to explore the most effective solutions and means to unify the ranks, and to set the Muslim Ummah free from this state of impotence and disunity."

In this context, His Majesty King Abdullah had extended an invitation to both the Prime Minister of Malaysia, in his capacity as the current Chairman of the OIC, and to myself, as the OIC Secretary General, to support this initiative. Both the Summit Chairman and I had promptly welcomed this proposal and we had committed ourselves to provide all possible support for the successful convening of the Extraordinary OIC Summit and the preparatory meeting of scholars and intellectuals.

The new vision and agenda has been shaped by the work of the Preparatory Forum of Muslim Scholars and Intellectuals both within and outside OIC Member States that was held, upon the invitation of His Majesty King Abdullah, in Makkah al-Mukarramah on 5-7 Shaban 1426 H (9-11 September 2005).

The scholars in three panels, namely the Political Affairs and Media, Economy, Science and Technology, and Islamic Thought, Culture and Education had intense and motivated deliberations. The forum produced analyses of the current challenges faced by the Muslim world, set the vision for the next decade and proposed specific actions in each of these areas.

It is not surprising to see parallels in the outcomes of this forum and of the Commission of the Eminent Persons by the initiative of Malaysia following the 10th OIC Summit Conference held in Putrajaya whose report will be presented separately to the Extraordinary OIC Summit Conference in Makkah al-Mukarramah.

This convergence indeed signifies the fact that there is a strong consensus on the current issues and challenges, the vision for the future and the agenda of action to reach that vision.

The sense of commitment and the level of intellectual quality in both of these fora were remarkable. These works need to be considered in formulating a forward-looking and proactive agenda for the Muslim world as they represent the intellectual input that can shed light on our way as one family of nations.

The final conclusions of these panels produced through brainstorming are summarized in the following paragraphs:

PANEL ON POLITICAL AND MEDIA ISSUES

1. On political and media issues, the scholars reviewed the position of the Muslim Ummah in the contemporary world, discussed extensively, Islamic solidarity and Joint Islamic Action as well as the reform and restructuring of the OIC. They also deliberated on the need for good governance, conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict peace-building. Similarly, the Palestinian Question, Terrorism, Dialogue among Civilizations, Islamophobia, the Political and Human Rights of Muslim Minorities in non-OIC Member States and Media issues, were discussed.

2. Reviewing the **position of the Ummah in the contemporary world**, the scholars stressed that the Ummah was an integral part of today's world and that there was no conflict between the Islamic and contemporary universal values. They noted that as a religion sent to mankind, the message of Islam is a role model for all people to establish the values of equality, justice, peace and brotherhood. However, while acknowledging that the Muslim Ummah has been going through a prolonged period of crisis which has been compounded by external challenges and negative campaigns against it, the scholars, in resetting priorities for the Ummah, recommended a number of measures that required implementation in the next decade.

3. Accordingly, the scholars proposed that, while respecting the sovereignty of individual OIC Member States, solidarity between them needed to be strengthened. They urged Muslim countries to play a more active role on the international scene especially in this transitional period when the evolving international order is being shaped. The scholars called for the Muslim world to effectively participate in the reform of the UN including the expansion of the UN Security Council, with adequate representation of the Muslim Ummah. In reaffirming the

inalienable right of all Member States to develop nuclear capabilities for peaceful purposes in accordance with international legality, they also stressed the importance of making the Middle East, a Zone free of all weapons of mass destruction. While requesting the OIC to develop ways and means to promote intra-Islamic dialogue, the scholars also emphasized the necessity of addressing and resolving various conflicts among Muslims.

4. While deliberating on **Islamic Solidarity and Joint Islamic Action**, the scholars then reaffirmed the imperatives of solidarity and joint action in all domains including the political, economic and religious fields. They noted that real solidarity could only be achieved through the strengthening of institutions and a firm belief in a common destiny based on shared values as elaborated in the Qur'an and the Sunnah.

5. The scholars, while observing that extremism and sectarianism could undermine achieving real solidarity, called for renewed political commitment to promote pro-active Islamic solidarity through a gradual process. In this context, the scholars further called for the strengthening and expansion of the capacities of the existing institutions. including the revitalization of the OIC Islamic Solidarity Fund, the operationalization of the "Disaster Fund" to respond to various disasters and natural calamities, the creation of a Special Fund to eradicate poverty in the Muslim world and the setting up of a special "African Solidarity Programme" to address the peculiar needs of the continent. The importance of solidarity with Muslim Minorities in non-OIC Member States and with NGOs and civil society groups was also highlighted by the scholars.

6. With the enormous challenges posed by **globalization**, the scholars stressed the necessity for Muslims to act with unity and speak with one voice through the instrument of the OIC. As the only overarching Organization for the Muslim world, the OIC has the potential to play a major role in creating a brighter and prosperous future for the Ummah if certain reforms are implemented. Accordingly, the scholars recommended a strong political commitment during the Extraordinary Summit to rename the Organization, revise its Charter, and restructure the General Secretariat where new departments such as Strategic Planning, Peace and Security, to deal with early warning and conflict prevention, should be created. They called for the empowerment of the Secretary General with the necessary authority and expanded budgetary resources to undertake new initiatives, implement the new vision and mission in order to raise the profile and visibility of the Organization in all major international fora. While stressing the need for more coordination and complimentarity among different OIC institutions with the General Secretariat, the scholars, proposed the opening of new OIC offices in large Muslim countries and other capitals of the world.

7. In discussing the need for **good governance**, the scholars noted that its benchmark is already enshrined in the Qur'an and the Sunnah. They further pointed out that Islamic parameters of good governance were compatible with democracy, equality, freedom, social justice, transparency, accountability, anti-corruption and the respect for human rights. In this context, the scholars recommended the enhancement of political participation, the empowerment of the people and, the establishment of an OIC Permanent Commission to fight human rights violations.

8. The scholars underlined the importance of the **peaceful resolution of conflicts in the Muslim world**. In this regard, they stressed the key role that the General Secretariat of the OIC could play in view of the absence of any effective institution to manage conflicts in Muslim countries. While urging Muslim countries to actively cooperate among themselves in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post conflict peace-building, the scholars appealed to them to effectively participate in the UN to create a collective security system. They further proposed the operationalization of the Islamic Court of Justice and the strengthening of regional and sub-regional consultation groups to prevent conflicts in the Muslim world. The need for the Secretary General to use his good offices in conflict management process, using the focal point of the Troika was also underscored by the scholars. Finally, they recommended that in case of the disintegration of any OIC Member State, no OIC country should accord recognition to any successor units.

9. Deliberating on the **Palestinian question**, the scholars stressed the importance of the comprehensive settlement of the problem according to international legality, the recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. Accordingly, they urged all Muslim countries to remain steadfast and united and avoid taking any unilateral steps to normalize relations with Israel until a just and comprehensive settlement is achieved. Accordingly, the scholars recommended that the Palestinian National Authority should be supported in their efforts to negotiate for the rights of the Palestinian people. They also appealed for assistance from all Muslim States to build Palestinian economic institutions, establish a university at Al-Aqsa, reopen the Gaza airport and seaport and the creation of Islamic Waqfs to protect religious and cultural sites in Palestine. The reactivation of OIC's role in the resolution of the Palestinian question as well as the renewal of the mandate of the five Member Committee of the OIC to continue contacts with the Quartet and other actors, were also proposed by the scholars.

10. While underscoring the imperative of **combating terrorism** and addressing its root causes, the scholars however, noted the lack of consensus on the definition of the term and insisted on its differentiation from the right to resist aggression, foreign occupation and self-defense. They rejected the linkage of Islam and Muslims to terrorism and noted that the war on terrorism only through military means was breeding more violence. Therefore, while urging OIC Member States to combat terrorism through concerted efforts, the scholars also called for the operationalisation of the OIC Convention on Terrorism and the creation of an International Counter Terrorism Centre.

11. The scholars, in their discussions on the alarming phenomenon of **Islamophobia**, which they identified as a form of racism and discrimination, noted with concern its spread against Muslims. They, therefore, highlighted the necessity to fight and eradicate it as a way of raising the level of mutual understanding between different cultures In this context, the scholars recommended the global monitoring of the phenomenon, the issuance of annual report on it, and the holding of a global congress to raise awareness and address the trend. They further called on Western countries to legislate against Islamophobia and use educational and media channels to combat it. In addition, the scholars, while welcoming the setting up of an "OIC Observatory" by

the General Secretariat to monitor Islamophobia, called for enhanced coordination between the OIC institutions and civil society groups in the West to counter the phenomenon.

12. While deliberating on the **political and human rights of Muslim minorities in non-OIC countries**, the scholars noted the challenges faced by them in their countries of residence and insisted that like others, these Muslim Minorities were entitled to basic human rights which need to be safeguarded. To protect their full rights and identity, the scholars stressed the importance of cooperation between the OIC and other international organizations like the UN, EU, Council of Europe, OSCE, AU etc. to comprehensively address the question of Muslim Minorities' rights and issues. While giving due respect to the sovereignty of states when dealing with the rights of its Muslim Minorities, the scholars recommended the preparation of annual human rights report on Muslim Minorities. They also called for the revitalization of the Department for Muslim Minorities and Communities in the General Secretariat and granting observer status in the OIC to NGOs representing Muslim Minorities. Furthermore, such NGOs should be encouraged to seek consultative status with international, regional and sub-regional organizations in conformity with their prevailing rules.

13. The scholars identified the **media** as a powerful tool in the modern world to project a positive image of Islam and to promote the interests of the Ummah. In this regard, they drew attention to the domination of the West in the field of information and the misuse of the media to misrepresent Islam and Muslims. They also noted the insufficient knowledge and expertise among the media in the Muslim world. To address these challenges, the scholars called on OIC Member States to guarantee freedom of the press, agree on a Code of Ethics for media channels, establish TV stations to broadcast programmes on various religious, political and social issues, and produce documentaries and films to counter misrepresentations of Islam and Muslims. The scholars, similarly, urged Muslim media to reach out in a credible manner to non-Muslims and develop cooperation with friendly media networks in the West.

PANEL ON ECONOMY, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ISSUES

14. After reviewing the state of the economies of the OIC Member States, the scholars identified the challenges that need to be addressed in the near future. In the economic domain, those challenges are: globalization, state control of economies, lack of strong private sector in many countries, failure to promote and implement sustainable development policies, low levels of investment, insufficient trade financing, heavy burden of foreign debt and debt servicing on their economies, severe balance of payments difficulties in some Member States, market access problems (tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade) among Member States, lack of effective means of transportation and similar infrastructural inadequacies, needs for capacity-building, restrictions of access for businesspersons, failure to eradicate poverty and diseases, lack of basic needs, being far below the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and inadequate human resource development. In the field of science and technology, the basic challenges include lack of national science and technology development strategies, low levels of commitment of funds to R&D, weak university-industry collaboration, human resources problems, and insufficient research infrastructures.

15. However, the scholars emphasized that the OIC Member States, numbering 57 today, are endowed with immense economic potentials in different fields such as energy and mining, agriculture, human resources, and trade. They held the view that these natural and human resources should be utilized fully with a view to ensuring the sustainable development of the Member States individually and collectively, while reinforcing the capability of the group to defend its interest in the world economy and international fora. Therefore, this Conference is timely and will give the opportunity to take the more needed historic decision in order to address these challenges and prepare the Islamic Ummah to play a more important role in this century. It will be recalled that the OIC since its inception has already initiated the process of economic and commercial cooperation through the Makkah Declaration adopted at the Third Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al- Mukarramah in January 1981 and the Plan of Action to strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation adopted during the same Conference.

16. Having noted the effects of globalization on the economies of the Member States, the 10th Islamic Summit Conference recommended that the process of their economic integration should be speeded up to avoid further marginalization and to accelerate the process of their sustainable development. In this context, the summit underlined the need to ensure effective implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for Strengthening Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the Member States. The 1981 Plan of Action was revised and adopted by the Tenth Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul on 22-25 October 1994 and endorsed by the Seventh Islamic Summit held in Casablanca on 13-15 December 1994. The objectives of the Plan are as follows:

(a) To achieve food security for and raising the standard of living of the Muslim populations with special emphasis on the eradication of poverty, famine and malnutrition in the Islamic world;

(b) To realize increased and diversified production in various productive and service sectors of the economies of the Member States and promoting trade exchanges within the community;

(c) To enhance financial flows by reducing constraints on capital movements and investments among Member States;

(d) To reduce the existing development gaps within the OIC community to facilitate smoother and more effective economic and commercial cooperation amongst the Member States themselves;

(e) To improve the quality of human capital and reduce the technology gap between the OIC community and the developed world by enhancing the level of Research and Development activities;

(f) To Promote and expand economic cooperation among the Member States in such a way as to realize a gradual integration of the economies of the OIC countries with a view to setting up an Islamic Common Market or any other form of economic integration, on a step-by-step and initially regional basis. This approach would not only help overcome the possible negative impacts on the OIC countries of the accelerating pace in the formation

of global economic groupings, but also support the aspirations of the OIC community for a larger share in world economic activity and a more equitable division of labour vis-à-vis the rest of world.

The Plan of Action on economic and commercial cooperation is being implemented by the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), chaired by the President of the Republic of Turkey. COMCEC has so far organized 20 annual ministerial conferences and many other sectoral conferences, seminars, workshops and expert level meetings with a view to accelerating the implementation of the Plan of Action. All these meetings have concluded that the political will of the leaders of the OIC Member States is the primary requirement for progress in the implementation of the plan of action. Another Plan of Action in the field of Science and Technology was adopted by the Fourth Islamic Summit held in Casablanca in 1984 and is being implemented by the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), chaired by the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The scholars strongly appealed to the leaders of the Ummah to take urgent measures to ensure the implementation of these two Plans of Action in order to foster the development of OIC Member States, both individually as well as collectively, and to effectively confront the present challenges.

17. While acknowledging that globalization presents advantages and challenges, the scholars stressed that the Muslim World can benefit from the economic advantages of globalization through effective regional economic cooperation.

18. After extensively deliberating upon how to utilize the global processes, the scholars proposed several concrete measures. These include the encouragement of regional economic groupings amongst OIC Member States; standardization of products and processes and the application of international standards; increase in the quality of products and services to improve their competitiveness; utilization of new advanced telecommunications and information technologies; removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers amongst Muslim nations in order to facilitate the integration of the economic process prior to the submersion of national economies into the powerful economies, and the promotion of an efficient political machinery and media as essential elements for enhancement of the internal infrastructure's capacity to benefit from globalization.

19. In addition to that, the following recommendations adopted by the Preparatory Forum of Muslim Scholars and Intellectuals during their meeting in Makkah Al Mukarramah from 9-11 September 2005 for consideration by the Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference will contribute to strengthening economic and commercial cooperation among the Member States.

20. On the question of economic and commercial cooperation among OIC Member States, the scholars noted that intra-OIC trade actually represents only 14% of their total trade. They recommended that the process of economic integration among OIC Member States should be accelerated through the creation of a Free Trade Area. The scholars strongly recommended that all OIC Member States should accede to the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States (TPSOIC) so as to take part in the trade negotiations

under the agreement as this will be the first step toward the creation of a Free Trade Area and ultimately the realization of the Islamic Common Market which is a long-term objective.

21. The scholars underlined the need to prepare and implement concrete programmes with goals and targets in the domain of economic and commercial cooperation among OIC Member States. In this connection, they welcomed the proposal to achieve a 20% level of intra-OIC trade by the year 2015.

22. To realize this objective, some measures need to be adopted, including, among others, increase of intra-OIC investment, removal of trade barriers, facilitation of visas for businessmen from OIC Member States, improvement of transport and communication between OIC Member States, reinforcement of capacity building and development of a strong private sector in OIC countries.

23. In this context, the scholars expressed their support for the initiatives aimed at revitalizing and energizing the role of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry. They also underlined the need to support the Islamic Development Bank Group and in particular the newly established International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC).

24. In order to accelerate the process for energizing trade among OIC Member States, the following measures were also recommended, notably: trade promotion/facilitation, encouraging Member States to promote their export credit guarantee schemes and further enhance the capabilities of the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investments and Export Credit (ICIEC). There is also the need for improved coordination among the Standing Committees as well as among the OIC Subsidiary Organs, Specialized and Affiliated Institutions; increased investment by Muslim countries in other OIC Member States; the establishment of an OIC Zakat Authority to alleviate the sufferings of the Muslims in need; the establishment of an Association of Muslim Traders and Businesspersons; and for visa facilitation for Muslim businessmen. In this connection a special facility titled "*MAKKAH AL MUKARRAMAH VISA for entry to the OIC Member States*" could be considered. The scholars also stressed the need for promotion of national and regional initiatives for investments in the OIC LDCs and, the continuation of efforts to fight corruption through good governance as a means to remove barriers against investments.

25. On the question of sustainable development and finance, the scholars highlighted the fact that many OIC countries carried the burden of debt and are far below in the Millennium Development Goals. Moreover, the economies of some OIC countries are largely under state control and therefore, despite many efforts, the realization of trade liberalization and free market are still elusive.

26. It was also noted that to achieve the objective of liberalizing and modernizing their economies, the OIC Member States, and more importantly the least developed among them, need more financial resources preferably in the form of soft loans and concessional funds.

27. In order to address these challenges, the scholars recommended that the IDB's Board of Governors should be commissioned to take necessary measures geared towards achieving a substantial increase in its subscribed and paid-up capital, and to establish a concessional fund

with sizeable resources for poverty reduction within the IDB Group, commensurate with the enormous economic needs of the least developed member countries of IDB. Detailed information concerning the proposal for the increase of subscribed and paid up capital of the IDB and the establishment of a fund in IDB Group to grant concessional financing for least developed OIC Member States will be submitted to the Summit for consideration. The establishment of free trade zone in OIC Member States would also play an important role in the intra-OIC trade promotion. The scholars also endorsed the proposal to establish a permanent OIC Relief Fund in order to assist Member States afflicted with natural disasters or famines, thus achieving Islamic solidarity. They further recommended that government to government debts of the OIC LDCs should be reduced and/or written off; that focus should be on changing the culture of debt in OIC countries as far as possible; and that poverty in poor OIC countries should be alleviated through the collection of Zakat. Furthermore, the scholars underscored the need for OIC Member States to adopt a unified stand in their international economic and commercial negotiations, in particular those conducted under WTO. In this context, they commended the initiative of the OIC General Secretariat, the IDB, and the ICDT for organizing in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in April 2005, a forum on energizing trade and investment in Cotton sector in Africa and called for the effective implementation of the recommendations of the said forum.

28. The scholars commended Malaysia's initiative on Capacity Building for Poverty Alleviation in Least Developed and low-income Member States, in its capacity as Chairman of the 10th Islamic Summit Conference.

29. The scholars highlighted the role of tourism as an important sector for revenue creation and dialogue among civilizations as well as for preserving the Islamic cultural heritage. They, therefore, recommended enhanced cooperation in the field of tourism through the promotion of investment and the facilitation of travel amongst OIC Member States.

30. The scholars also stressed the need for the prevention and eradication of diseases and the awareness of environmental issues since they were essential components of sustainable development.

31. While deliberating on science and technology, the scholars stressed that this field was not only a vital element of human knowledge, but also an essential input for economic competitiveness. They highlighted the lack of national science and technology development strategies; low levels of commitment of funds to Research and Development (R&D); weak university-industry collaboration; human resources problems and insufficient research infrastructures.

32. The scholars recommended that OIC countries should set targets and specific indicators to be achieved in the long and medium terms. Accordingly, the scholars proposed the following targets for the year 2015: (a) number of experts and scientists: 800 per million, (b) ratio of students between ages 18 and 24 having the opportunity to enter into universities: 30% (c) number of students to professors: 16 (d) percentage of GDP for R&D: 1.2 %. The scholars agreed that the targets and indicators for the LDCs would be one-third of these targets. It was also stressed that an enabling environment for R&D was vital to achieve these targets.

33. The scholars also proposed national science and technology strategies in OIC Member States; establishment of centers of excellence; increased vocational training; use of modern technologies to promote education, such as long distance learning, linking scientists to industry; establishment of an OIC R&D Fund to support Member States' projects on a cost sharing basis. The scholars further underlined that it is high time for the oil producing countries to channel part of the revenues generated from increased oil prices into their national R&D activities with a view to supporting their long-term sustainable development through generating new sources of wealth and expertise.

34. The scholars further recommended the promotion of corporations within OIC Member States to assist inventors to develop and patent their inventions. IDB may fund training programmes for scientists in different fields in the OIC Member States. The scholars noted the need for the creation of national and regional networking of their research institutions with a view to avoiding duplication and boosting innovation; the desired goal of exploring and harnessing their own natural resources. Finally, the scholars recommended the revision of targets stipulated in the Vision 2020, adopted by the 10th Islamic Summit in Malaysia, to new sets of targets to be achieved by 2015, and the strengthening of COMSTECH through greater allocation of resources.

PANEL ON ISLAMIC THOUGHT, CULTURE & EDUCATION

35. In reviewing issues in the fields of Islamic thought, culture and education the scholars noted that the Muslim World stands at a critical moment, and therefore, required a renewed commitment to address the problems of extremism, illiteracy, the provision of quality education, eradication of diseases, underdevelopment, unemployment, youth and women empowerment, as well as the cultural challenges of globalization on the heritage of the Ummah.

36. The scholars, while adopting a common approach in their discussions offered a number of far-reaching recommendations, which, if implemented within the next ten years, will positively, uplift the current unacceptable state of the Ummah in order to build advanced societies that will help us meet up with the train of modernity.

37. On the **concept of moderation in Islam**, the scholars agreed that this concept is based on a solid foundation of Islamic belief and constitutes the hallmark of the Islamic Ummah: "Thus have we made you an evenly-balanced nation that you may be witnesses for mankind and the Messenger may be a witness for you." (Al-Baqara – 143).

38. The scholars affirmed that Islam prescribes moderation in all aspects of life and stands for complete harmony in the society. They called for more efforts at all levels to reflect the true image of Islam as a faith of moderation, tolerance and peaceful co-existence. In this context, they stated that Islam condemns extremism in all its aspects as it goes against human values. They emphasized the need to address its root causes, which could not only be solved with security solutions. In addition, the scholars underlined that terrorism should not be linked to any particular religion, culture or civilization. They stressed the need to establish a moderate Islamic discourse, which is bound to time, place, and circumstances and one that is explained in contemporary language. This discourse should make clear difference between the root and the

branch, between the original and the derived. It should also be moderate, credible, effective and influential in order to reflect the true image of Islam. They also stressed the need to develop Islamic educational curricula with this understanding and to initiate a revision process in this regard.

39. The scholars also extensively deliberated on the important question of the **multiple schools of thought**. They stated that differences in schools of thought reflect the rich nature of the Islamic thought sources. In this regard, they expressed their full support to the declaration made regarding these issues by the International Islamic Conference, which was held in Amman in July 2005 and was attended by more than 170 Muslim scholars.

40. While deliberating on the **role of the Islamic Fiqh Academy** in re-examining the Islamic heritage, the scholars stressed that issuing Islamic ruling (Fatwa) should be performed with objectivity and integrity. It must be assigned to Scholars who have deep Islamic Knowledge and wisdom. They warned against issuance of reckless Fatwas by people who were not qualified to speak in the name of Islam and Muslims and interpret Islamic teachings in accordance with their own opinion and preferences a situation that tarnished the image of Islam, both within and outside the Muslim world. The scholars stressed the need for a close coordination between religious ruling authorities in the Muslim World through the Islamic Fiqh Academy.

41. While deliberating on the question of a new vision for the Islamic Fiqh Academy, the scholars emphasized the need to have a credible international Islamic reference based on collective and organized jurisprudence in order to elucidate the religious point of view regarding new questions and issues. In this context, the scholars called for the reform of the Islamic Fiqh Academy, so that it could serve as the supreme juristic authority of the Islamic Ummah. In this regard, they called for applying competence and scholarly aptitude as criteria for the membership of the Islamic Fiqh Academy. The scholars stressed that the IFA Secretary General and its Chairman should assume office through the election of the most qualified jurists of the Muslim world who can serve the vision set out here, and implement the IFA Statute and regulations in a strict and effective manner. They called for applying strict criteria of scholarly merit in nominating candidates for high office bearers. The scholars also recommended the inclusion of women scholars in the IFA's membership according to their juristic and scholarly aptitude and competence. The scholars affirmed the need of writing and publishing IFA resolutions and rulings in a modern simple language in order to expand the sphere of communication between the IFA and the public in the Muslim World. In order to enable the IFA to discharge the totality of its duties and to give it a wider autonomy within the OIC, the scholars called for establishing an IFA waqf with increasing resources.

42. Concerning the **issue of illiteracy**, the scholars stressed that it constitutes a major impediment to the development of the Islamic societies. They affirmed that combating illiteracy should be a strategic goal for the Islamic World and they emphasized the need to completely eradicate illiteracy from OIC Member States within the next 10 years. The scholars further suggested the establishment of an Iqra Fund to support and enhance the quality of education.

43. On the question of **higher education** as a tool for the advancement of the Ummah, the scholars emphasized that higher education was the major foundation for the advancement and

progress of the Ummah. and that without proper attention being given to it, the Ummah would continue to suffer from backwardness in education and sciences. They also focused on the need to upgrade and reform higher education institutions and their curricula. The scholars further stressed the need for supporting academic research centers to promote the development of Muslim Societies.

44. The scholars also deliberated on the subject of **cultural exchange as a tool for promoting understanding, harmony and solidarity among peoples of the Muslim World**. In this context, the scholars stressed the importance of encouraging cultural exchange as a means for achieving mutual understanding. They advocated that the particularity of cultural diversity should be widely disseminated at the global level. The scholars called upon the Organization of the Islamic Conference to concentrate its efforts in enhancing cultural cooperation among Member States. They also called for paying attention to the issue of the translation between the different native languages in the Muslim World to realize the desired cultural exchange.

45. On **Dialogue among Civilizations**, the scholars underscored its necessity as an important step towards global peace, security and peaceful coexistence considering the existing lack of mutual understanding among cultures and civilizations. While stressing that successful dialogue should only be between equal partners based on mutual respect, reciprocity and dignity, the scholars recommended a central role for the OIC in conducting dialogue among civilizations. They also suggested that the dialogue be all-inclusive and comprehensive to remove all kinds of negative perceptions starting with the revision of relevant textbooks by all sides. They further proposed the formation of a core group from OIC Member States to initiate the dialogue.

46. As for the question of **women's rights in the Muslim world** and elaboration of an effective strategy for the integration of women into the society, the scholars highlighted that the prominent role and the rights of women in the society was clearly espoused in Islam. The scholars, accordingly, called for enhancing the status and position of women in the society of OIC Member states. They also called for supporting direct and sustainable relationship among Muslim Women Associations in Member States and cooperation with existing international Women's Organizations in Islamic Countries.

47. On the subject of the **rights of child in the Muslim World** and the elaboration of a strategy for the protection of their rights, the scholars highlighted that children were the Ummah's future and its edifiers. The scholars, accordingly, stressed the necessity to place them at the top of Member States national agenda priorities, and taking concrete actions in their favor. In this connection, they called for giving special attention to their quality education and guidance to particularly preserve their rights and to protect them from violence, abuse and exploitation. The scholars highlighted that according to the available international statistics, polio remained endemic in some OIC Member States with recent reports of outbreak in certain Members. The scholars, accordingly, appealed for a strong commitment by OIC Member States to join international efforts to achieve complete eradication of poliomyelitis in the Muslim world. They also stressed the need to protect children against other serious preventable diseases.

48. In discussing the question of dealing with the **material and spiritual demands of the youth in the Muslim world**, the scholars highlighted that since the youth constituted a large

majority in Muslim societies, an enormous responsibility rested on their shoulders for the uplift of the Ummah. Accordingly, priority attention should be given to develop their knowledge, profession and behavior, through their educational institutions and the media. This would help them to devote themselves to their nations and peoples. The scholars also called for urgent attention to alleviate the problem of unemployment in the Muslim world, particularly amongst the youth.

49. On the question of the **protection of the cultural and religious rights of Muslim societies and communities in non-OIC member states**, the scholars highlighted the impact of the problems confronted by these Muslim societies and communities. These problems included the protection of their cultural identity, and their participation in edifying their nation and compliance with their laws in order to protect them from all forms of discrimination, oppression and exclusion. The scholars stressed the need to step up and coordinate efforts to protect the cultural heritage of Muslims in non-OIC member states.

50. In identifying the **challenges of globalization and their effects on the cultural heritage of the Ummah**, the scholars acknowledged that globalization had become a reality, which requires sound knowledge of its nature, mechanisms, forms and challenges as well as how to deal with its positive and negative aspects. The scholars, accordingly, stressed the need to take advantage of the positive aspects of globalization while safeguarding the cultural heritage and the identity of the Islamic Ummah.

51. Reviewing the question of **setting new priorities and goals of the Ummah in the areas of Islamic thought, education, social and cultural affairs for the next decade**, the scholars highlighted the urgency of setting priorities and defining medium and long term goals in order to achieve progress and bring about renaissance in the Muslim world. The scholars urged the OIC, to revise its various strategies in different areas in a more realistic way, which would define priorities and objectives as well as take into account both the circumstances of time and place and what was feasible under those circumstances, in the areas of Islamic thought, education, cultural and social affairs, during the next decade.

CONCLUSION

It is the common aspiration of the Eminent Persons, intellectuals and scholars who participated in both the CEP and the Makkah Forum that the Muslim world is at a historic and critical juncture. A new vision is required for the Muslim world, an agenda of appropriate and urgent action is needed, and consequently a significantly redefined OIC is a must as an agent of change and promotion of Muslim interests at the global level.

Both fora delineated and analyzed the challenges that the Muslim world is facing today. These challenges have political, economic and cultural ramifications. They need to be addressed in the best way through a common understanding and by formulating a common path.

As one of these major challenges, globalization is a massive change that comes with both benign and malign connotations and needs to be fully understood and utilized to leverage its benefits for the ummah.

Most of these global challenges demonstrate the fact that the world is passing through rapid and sweeping changes. Current developments reshaping the international order oblige Muslims and their States to redefine their vision and actions and design a political, economic and cultural agenda that would engage Muslim states and societies proactively.

The participants underlined the essential need to revamp existing mindsets and agendas in individual Muslim societies but also their States and international organizations, chiefly the OIC, the largest international organization of the Muslim world.

They stressed the fact that the thoughts and energies of Muslims should be directed towards formulating answers rather than repeating questions.

What is needed is a change motivated by and within the Islamic world and not imposed from outside. This requires intellectual openness and alertness, political will and leadership much more than what was shown in previous periods of crises before.

The absence of a timely and unified endevaour to realize this goal is likely to lead to unintended consequences that could incite yet another wave of destruction, alienation, despair, embarrassment and dependency in the Muslim world.

What we need is a vision that would respond to these challenges and enable us to shape a brighter future for Muslims across the world. This is a vision of a unified Muslim world in hearts, in thoughts and in labor. It is a vision of a community of nations and states that represent justice, development and moral power. It is a vision of a Muslim world that has an effective international stature through an effective, competent and strong organization.

It is at this juncture that scholars and intellectuals came forward with a future-looking agenda of action. This agenda presents broad steps that need to be taken in order to move from today's shortcomings to the vision of a unified, strong and powerful Muslim world.

All these deliberations consequently focused on the issue of reshaping the OIC as to become the voice and medium for the Muslim world. This new vision was designed to call upon the Member States of the OIC to radically reform their international organization with a totally new mandate that would serve to the current and future interests of the Ummah.

In light of the above, what is needed is a new mission for the OIC. Its functions, scope of activities, structure, staffing, internal and external relations and performance must be redesigned in tandem with this new vision and mission. A new OIC based on the principles of transparency, accountability, effectiveness, flexibility and proactiveness must take the initiative to deal with the urgent problems of our day and age.

A new OIC will have a more comprehensive and larger scope of activities. These activities include monitoring, coordinating, agenda-building, advocacy and raising awareness about such crucial issues as conflict prevention and management, minority affairs, disaster relief, policy harmonization, economic and commercial development, science and research, education and cultural issues, women's and children's rights, preventing extremism of all kinds, and easing religious, sectarian and ethnic tensions through the guidance of scholars and leaders.

To achieve these goals, the reform of the OIC necessitates a redefinition of its mandate, status, structure and functions in line with the common principles and aspirations of Muslim states and societies.

Only an international organization possessing these qualities equipped with a merit-based and strong staff and with sufficient financial resources can cater to the vision set out here and work to facilitate the implementation of the agenda of action for the future of Muslim countries.

Only a new OIC that characterizes and catalyzes a principled change and an enlightened moderation can fulfill its mandate as an action base for Muslim States and represent the Muslim world in the best way in the international fora.

In conclusion, all of us want to see an end to a passive and insulated approach to the challenges that face the Muslim world today. We want a common voice and action. A new OIC with a new mandate and structure is indispensable for this vision. A new OIC will be key for ensuring a brighter and promising future for hundreds of millions of people across the world. Its success will be a historic one not only for Muslims but also for the whole of humanity.

Annex V

A/60/633
S/2005/826

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL
ON THE CAUSE OF PALESTINE AND AL QUDS AL SHARIF

SUBMITTED TO THE THIRD EXTRAORDINARY
ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE

MAKKAH AL-MUKARRAMAH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
5 - 6 DHUL QA'ADA 1426H
(7 – 8 DECEMBER 2005)

The Situation in the Palestinian Territories

The Palestinian cause recently witnessed significant developments after the Israeli government implemented its unilateral plan to redeploy its forces outside the Gaza Strip, dismantle all its settlements there and evacuate its settlers from Gaza and some settlements in the Northern West Bank. The Secretary of State of the United States of America exerted earnest efforts leading to an agreement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides over the land crossings linking the West Bank with the Arab Republic of Egypt and a safe passage linking the Gaza Strip with the West Bank.

Despite the positive atmosphere that followed the Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, Israel has recently taken measures to create a buffer zone, hundreds of metres wide within the Palestinian territories in north of the Gaza Strip. Its forces have continued to bomb several regions in the Gaza Strip using aeroplanes, tanks, and mortars, killing scores of people and leaving many injured. The Israeli measures have been criticized by the representative of the Quartet, Mr James Wolfensohn, who described Israel as acting as if there was no withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. Mr Wolfensohn also announced that Israel requested the stoppage of the preliminary World Bank studies on linking the West Bank to the Gaza Strip.

Furthermore, Israel continued its incursions into the cities, villages and refugee camps in the West Bank, perpetrated more killings and assassinations, launched a massive campaign of arrests, and continued to impose collective punishments on Palestinians. It also continued the building of settlements, the Wall, bye-passes and military barriers that hamper the movement of the Palestinian citizens. Israel ventured to set aside several roads in the West Bank for the exclusive use of Jewish settlers as part of a recently uncovered racial segregation scheme aimed at creating a new fait accompli on the ground. Under this plan, a large parcel of Palestinian land would be confiscated in order to build more roads for the use of the settlers and to establish crossings, openings and centres for monitoring the movements of Palestinians.

Economic losses

Concerning economic losses, the Palestinian National Information Centre issued a report in which it stated that losses suffered by the Palestinian economy since the beginning of the *intifada* has reached US$ 15, 633,000,000 (Fifteen billion six hundred and thirty-three million dollars). This is as a result of the Israeli measures such as blockades, collective punishments, shelling and destruction of infrastructure as well as public and private properties. According to the report, the GDP of Palestine

has fallen by 40%, its exports by 54%, while investments have shrunk by US$ 145 million. Unemployment has risen from 10% before the *intifada* to 27% after it, and 67% of Palestinian families have lost their income. Israeli military operations have caused damages to more than 9000 factories, 430 of which were totally damaged. Moreover, 1720 economic facilities closed down as a direct result of the separation wall being built by Israel on the Palestinian territories. The Palestinian labour force has lost about US$ 3.8 billion because of the inability of Palestinian workers to reach their workplaces due to military barriers and closures imposed on their cities and villages by Israel. The net loss on local income and production has reached US$ 9, 163,000,000.

Settlement and the Wall

Although Israel has evacuated its settlers from settlements in Gaza Strip and four settlements in the Northern West Bank, it has persisted in expanding its settlements in the West Bank. A noticeable increase was revealed recently in the number of settlers in the West Bank, reaching over 260,000 settlers in August 2005, in addition to more than 180,000 settlers living in 11 settlement neighbourhoods dispersed in and around occupied East Jerusalem since 1967.

The Israeli settlement activity in the West Bank included the recent confiscation of a large tract of Palestinian land. There, Palestinian lands located in the south of Al Khaleel, were confiscated to expand settlements. Also in the heart of the City of Al Khaleel, tracts of land were confiscated to expand the *Ramat Ishay* settlement. It was revealed recently that the continuous curfew and collective punishments imposed by Israel against Palestinian citizens in the City of Al-Khaleel have led to the expulsion of 30,000 Palestinians and the seizure of their homes in the old quarters of the city, to make way for their replacement by thousands of settlers. This is a process of ethnic cleansing aimed at the Judaization of the City of Al Khaleel and the imposition of fait accompli which will hamper the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. In addition, land was confiscated to open a new bypass to serve a number of settlements situated to the southwest of the City of Qalqelya. More land was confiscated to expand Ennab settlement built in the City of Toulkarm, in addition to the confiscation of hundreds of hectares of the land in the cities of Nablus and Bethlehem to build new sections of the apartheid wall. The Palestinian Authority published a report saying that Israel's settlement activities witnessed 100% increase in July compared with June. An Israeli government decision was revealed recently which strengthens settlement in the Jordan Valley, and US$ 20 million (twenty million dollars) were earmarked for a settlement project to be implemented in 2005-2006.

Concerning the construction of the apartheid wall, Israel has accelerated the construction of new sections of the wall, particularly around the occupied City of Al Quds, so as to join the settlement of *Maali Adumim* to the occupied Al Quds. This means the confiscation and annexing of 12,000 hectares of the land of the West Bank to the fake municipality.

The occupation authorities have completed the construction of most of the wall to the south of Al Quds such that the two cities of Bethlehem and Beit Jala remained behind an 11-meter high wall which has taken thousands of hectares from Palestinian land and has turned the native city of Jesus into a city of ghosts, completely isolated from Al Quds. Israeli occupation forces also turned Bilal Ibn Rabah Mosque situated to the north of Bethlehem into a Jewish synagogue and annexed it to Israel.

In occupied northern Al Quds, Israel completed the construction of new sections of the apartheid wall, which led to the isolation of Palestinian villages situated to the northwest of Al Quds and turned them into isolated Bantustans completely surrounded with walls. Israel has almost turned the military barrier in Qalandya, in northern Al Quds, into a permanent border crossing separating the city of Al Quds from its Palestinian surrounding.

The City of Al Quds

Israel continued its siege of the occupied City of Al Quds, denying Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip access to the city. Israel also continued to impose stringent restrictions to worshippers' access to the Blessed Al Aqsa Mosque. Palestinians of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were denied access for worship during the blessed month of Ramadan.

As part of the ongoing efforts of Israel to change the landmarks of the occupied City of Al Quds and interfere in the Islamic Waqf affairs in order to exercise its control over the Islamic religious sites and sanctuaries, the Israeli Department of Antiquities issued a report in which it claimed that the walls surrounding the City of Al Quds have serious cracks which expose a large part of it to disintegration. The Department of Islamic Waqf replied that the Israeli report concealed the intention of the occupation authorities to interfere in the restoration of the historical places in a manner that will serve Israel's interest in changing the landmarks and judaization of the holy city. The OIC Secretary General issued a press statement on the 20th November 2005 on the present conditions of the holy places and historical monuments in the city of Al-Quds as a result of the Israeli measures and excavations under the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque and walls of the old city. The statement stressed the readiness of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to do what is necessary to preserve the Islamic identity in the City of Al Quds, including the restoration and maintenance of its religious and historical sites.

Last October and for the first time since 1967, the Israeli Supreme Court granted permission to a group of Jewish extremists to enter and worship in the Al-Aqsa Mosque. This Israeli move came after the repeated announcement by the Jewish extremist group of its intension to desecrate the 'route of the Prophet's night journey' and after the recent unveiling of the extremists' intention to attack the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque with explosives.

Israel also persisted in its attempts to judaize the occupied City of Al Quds and to alter its civilizational, geographic and demographic characters. It completed the construction of 70% of the 130 KM wall which surrounds the City of Al Quds by what is known in Israel as the "Jerusalem Belt". The latter will include around 20 settlements, isolate 250,000 citizens of Al Quds from their geographic and demographic surrounding, and turn East Jerusalem into a set of poor isolated neighborhoods.

Concerning settlement within Al Quds, the Israeli settlement campaign has intensified, with the news that the settlement society known as the Society for the Development of the Old City registered 1300 Palestinian estates in the land register, under Jewish names in order to judaize the Holy City. It was also announced recently that the Israeli government has earmarked 15 million US dollars to strengthen Jewish settlement in the City of Al Quds as part of a plan to establish Israeli

settlement projects to prevent the Palestinian demographic expansion. Among these projects are the construction of a park and tourist points around the old city, including a tourist center at the foot of *Jabal Al Zaitoun*; turning Salomon's Cave, where settlers have built a settlement point, into a theater, and opening a road to link the settlements inside the old city with the large settlements surrounding the City of Al Quds. Perhaps the most serious of Israel's latest attempts is the announcement by its government to allocate US$100 million to restore buildings and roads in the occupied holy city and highlight Jewish architecture there as part of attempts to judaize the holy city.

The occupation's municipality of the City of Al Quds has validated a new settlement plan consisting of the construction of 100 housing units and a hotel for the Jews in the area of *Jabal Al Mokabber*, southeast Jerusalem on a surface of 48,000 square meters, half of which has been allocated to building a synagogue and settlement houses and the rest will be used to build a hotel overlooking the holy city from the Southeast.

Israel has recently declared its intention to build a new settlement point at the heart of *Bab Al Sahira* inside the walls of the old city, and to build a Jewish synagogue on top of which will be a golden dome similar to the Dome of the Holy Rock in an attempt to judaize the Holy City not only geographically and demographically, but culturally as well. Besides, Israeli occupation authorities have issued orders to demolish 120 Palestinian houses in the village of Silwan situated to the south of the walls of the old city of Al Quds under the pretext of building a park and safeguarding alleged Jewish antiquities.

Political Moves

The recent Israeli escalation has dealt a real blow to the international and regional peace efforts and has weakened the hopes of the Palestinians for any serious progress in the peace process. The region witnessed numerous political moves to enhance the peace process. The most prominent of those moves was the tour of the Palestinian President, Mr. Mahmoud Abbas, of European and Arab capitals and Washington D.C. and his meeting with the American President.

Within the framework of Islamic efforts to support the Palestinian rights, and pursuant to the Final Communiqué of the 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Sana'a, the Islamic ministerial delegation, comprised of the Kingdom of Morocco, the Republic of Yemen, Senegal, Malaysia, the Republic of Turkey, Palestine and the OIC Secretary General, held meetings and engagements with members of the Quartet at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, on the sidelines of 60th Session of the UN General Assembly. The Islamic Ministerial delegation held meetings with Mr Kofi Anan, the United Nations Secretary General, Mr Sergei Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, and Mr. Javier Solana, European Union High Representative for Political and Security Affairs. The discussions focused on the cause of Al Quds and the dangers it faces. It was also emphasized that the cause of Al Quds was a central issue for the Organization of the Islamic Conference and an international issue that concerns all countries of the world. During the meetings, the delegation called for action to stop the Israeli violations and the blockade of the City of Al Quds, to reject the Israeli measures aimed at judaizing and changing the features of the city, and to stop, as a matter of

necessity, the building of the separation wall and settlement activities, including Israel's decision to annex *Maali Adumim* to Al Quds, which preempts the final status negotiation and creates a situation that will prevent the establishment of a just peace in the Middle East. The Islamic ministerial delegation will resume its mission by holding further talks with Washington, London and the Vatican.

Visit of the Secretary General to Palestine

The Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference visited Palestine last May. There, he met the Palestinian President, Mr. Mahmoud Abbas, the Prime Minister, Mr. Ahmad Qurea, and a number of ministers in the Palestinian National Authority. The Secretary General and the Palestinian leadership discussed the state of the Palestinian cause and how to support the Palestinian people in their efforts to gain their national rights to freedom and independence and to establish the independent Palestinian state. The Secretary General also visited the City of Al Quds, where he met with its political and religious leadership and saw the difficulties the Holy City was going through as a result of the Israeli blockades and measures.

The condition today is more dangerous than it seems, as the Holy City is passing through the most difficult stage of its history, a moribund state, which is the result of restriction, isolation and blockade. Arab and Islamic presence is continuously being endangered because of the systematic policy of Israel to judaize the city and impose a fait accompli that cannot be amended. Confronting this policy, therefore, requires a counter policy and programme for systematic action aimed at arresting the acceleration of the ongoing judaization process to create the biggest and most profound change possible.

Preserving the Arab and Islamic character of the Holy City is intertwined with preserving the human presence therein, for that is the only guarantee against the completion of the aforementioned scheme. This requires improvement of the conditions for that presence, the strengthening the material capacities for continuity and steadfastness, and the preservation of Al-Quds that will shoulder this responsibility within the framework of a systematic support programme for Al Quds that caters for priorities, particularly those related to the basic needs, primarily to housing, education, health, culture and the preservation of the Islamic character and identity of the holy city.

Discussion was held with the Palestinian senior officials on what the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its affiliated institutions and bodies can do to support the Holy City and its inhabitants. In this regard, agreement has been reached on the involvement of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), in restoration works in Al-Quds, in collaboration with the Al Quds University.

Annex VI

FINAL AND APPROVED RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OIC COMMISSION OF EMINENT PERSONS (CEP)

PRESENTED AT THETHIRD EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE

MAKKAH AL-MUKARRAMAH - KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
5-6 DHUL QAIDAH 1426H (7-8 DECEMBER 2005)

INTRODUCTION

Currently, the Muslim world is confronted with grave challenges in the political, security, economic, intellectual, ideological, scientific, technological, information, media and organizational fields. OIC is an important vehicle to assist the Muslim world in meeting these challenges successfully.

The 10th Summit of the OIC decided to constitute a Commission of Eminent Persons through its resolution 45/10-P(IS) to "prepare a strategy and plan of action enabling the Islamic Ummah to meet the challenges of the 21st century; prepare a comprehensive plan for promoting universally and in particular within Islamic societies policies and programmes for promoting enlightened moderation; and prepare recommendations for reform and restructuring of OIC system".

The Commission of Eminent Persons (CEP), which consists of 17 countries from Burkina Faso, Egypt, Gambia, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sudan, Turkey, Yemen (list annexed) met under the Chairmanship of Malaysia first on 27-29 January 2005 in Putrajaya and then on 28-29 May 2005 in Islamabad to finalize its recommendations.

The recommendations of the Commission of Eminent Persons (CEP) are contained in the following three documents entitled:

(i) Challenges of the 21st Century;
(ii) Policies and Programme for Promoting Enlightened Moderation;
(iii) OIC Reform and Restructuring.

These documents with their recommendations are submitted as a whole by the Commission of Eminent Persons (CEP), in fulfillment of their mandate pursuant to the decision of the tenth Summit held in Putrajaya in October 2003, and as recommended by the Inaugural Meeting of the Commission of Eminent Persons held in Putrajaya in January 2005, for the consideration and approval of the Extraordinary Summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Makkah (November 2005), so that these can be implemented.

Islamabad, 29 May 2005

DOCUMENT 1: CHALLENGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY

I- POLITICAL

Challenges

i) Continued marginalization of the Ummah in influencing and setting the international agenda.

ii) Forging greater unity and harmony among the Ummah by building the capacity of the people and providing stability to achieve development and progress.

Recommendations

i) Emulate and implement universal good practices including combating corruption, and promoting accountability and transparency in the public and private sector.

ii) Study good practices among OIC members on governance including ways of promoting capacity building among less developed OIC countries.

iii) Strengthening democracy, civil society, political participation and respect for human rights.

iv) Members should be more active in the UN and other organizations.

v) OIC members should support candidates of member countries to positions in international organizations.

vi) OIC members should be more active in the UN reform process including endeavours to seek adequate representation of OIC members in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

vii) More proactive coordination to promote the just causes of the occupied Muslim peoples.

viii) Endeavours to improve the situation of Muslim communities/minorities outside OIC membership.

ix) Drawing up a plan for OIC unity to gradually integrate in future like other regional entities which could enable Ummah to meet the challenges and demands of globalization in the 21st century.

Executing Agencies

i) OIC Summit and ICFM.

ii) General Secretariat.

iii) OIC Permanent Observer Missions in New York and Geneva and similar Missions at Brussels and Vienna when established.

iv) OIC Working Group on Human Rights and Humanitarian issues in Geneva.

II-SECURITY

Challenges

i) Conflict within and among Muslim nations.
ii) Foreign occupation of Muslim lands.
iii) Tensions arising from Muslim minority status in a number of countries.
iv) Extremist tendencies due to feelings of injustice, hopelessness and desperation.

Recommendations

i) Promote Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) and develop a system of collective security that all Muslim countries could bind themselves together internationally to avoid border disputes and conflict.
ii) Reactivating the decision to establish an Islamic Court of Justice.
iii) The tendency of a fringe within the Ummah to resort to terrorism and violence should be checked through various ways, among them:

- Persuading big powers to address the root causes of terrorism and intensifying coordination within OIC for combating terrorism; and

- Encouraging interpretations of Islam which emphasize peace and non violence and popularizing principles or programmes which promote a balanced, contemporary comprehensive and inclusive Islamic civilization (Islam Hadhari approach)

Executing Agencies

i) OIC Summit and ICFM.
ii) General Secretariat of OIC.
iii) OIC Working Group on Peace and Security in New York and the OIC Working Group on Disarmament in Geneva.
iv) OIC Think tank (when established), universities and media.

III - ECONOMIC

Challenges

i) Failure to promote and implement sustainable development policies in the OIC world.
ii) Failure to eradicate poverty, corruption, disease, and the lack of basic rights and the provision of basic needs.
iii) Failure to develop strong economic cooperation despite vast natural and human resources.
iv) Globalization and the need to deal with its negative effects.

Recommendations

i) Address poverty eradication through measures such as capacity building, micro-credit schemes, small and medium enterprises and land reform among other programmes.
ii) Promoting economic cooperation and coordination among member countries to enable them to plan and sustainably manage their environment and natural resources efficiently, leading eventually to greater economic integration.

iii) Members should be encouraged to sign and ratify all existing intra-OIC trade and economic agreements.

iv) Encourage economic regional integration and development through free trade agreements, customs unions, common markets and other activities aimed at enhancing intra OIC trade and development.

v) Promote endeavours for institutionalized cooperation between OIC and UN Islamic Development Bank, World Bank, World Trade Organization, G-8.

vi) Secretary General should be a member of the IDB Board of Governors.

Executing Agencies

i) General Secretariat. ii) Islamic Development Bank. iii) COMCEC. iv) ICDT.

IV - EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Challenges

i) Low level of contribution towards science and technology, especially in the area of research and development.

ii) Lack of quality education and other flaws in the educational system.

iii) Failure to generate creative and innovative ideas.

Recommendations

i) Increase budgetary allocation substantially, to provide quality education and enhance research and development.

ii) Encourage private sector to contribute to research and development.

iii) Establish a consortium for higher education to promote scientific research and provide academic opportunities, inter alia, for those Muslim students who cannot pursue higher education in western institutions due to difficulties arising after the events of 9/11.

iv) Enhance exchanges of technologies among OIC countries.

v) Strengthen COMSTECH institutionally and financially.

vi) Encourage creative, innovative and critical thinking within the education system.

vii) OIC to develop standard high school curriculum in order to remove all prejudices about each other and the Secretary General to approach the western countries to remove the bias against Islam and Muslims from their curricula.

viii) Special initiatives for women education and female literacy.

ix) Modernization of curricula of religious schools.

Executing Agencies

i) COMSTECH ii) Islamic University of Technology in Dhaka iii) FUIW iv) IDB v) General Secretariat

V - MEDIA

Challenge

Misrepresentation and negative stereotyping of Islam and the Muslim Ummah.

Recommendations

i) Strengthen understanding and interpretation of the Muslim faith and religion to improve its image and understanding by others.

ii) Consider an appropriate media strategy including the engagement of professional entities to improve the image of Islam and Muslims in the west and other parts of non-Muslim world.

iii) Establish a working relationship and better coordination between the Information Department of the OIC and national media of Member States.

Executing Agencies

i) General Secretariat
ii) ISESCO
iii) IINA

DOCUMENT 2 : POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES FOR PROMOTING ENLIGHTENED MODERATION

INTRODUCTION

The agenda of Enlightened Moderation consists of a Two-Pronged Approach, i.e.:

a) Addressing the internal problems of the Muslim countries through educational reform, eradication of extremism, radicalism and sectarian violence.

b) Addressing the moral obligation of Western powers which directly or indirectly contributed to the injustices, oppression, aggression and long-standing disputes involving Muslim peoples, and to assist the socio-economic uplift of the poor countries in the South.

1. DEFINITION OF ENLIGHTENED MODERATION

Enlightened Moderation is a concept derived from (a) the Quranic description of the Islamic Ummah as an "Ummatan Wasatan" ("A nation in the middle... Al-Baqarah: 143) (b) the Qur'anic injunction to avoid extremist religious practices (Al-An'am: 153) and (c) the Prophetic norm which says that "The best way of setting affairs is that which is more moderate" and (d) the importance that Islam gives to the pursuit of comprehensive knowledge of the world we live in so that our life is enlightened by such knowledge and wisdom.

The essence of moderation is the avoidance of extremes, which may or may not cause unnecessary hardships or burdens for oneself or for others. An attitude or behaviour of moderation which is based on sound rational principles supported by the Qur'an, authentic Hadiths and wisdom (hikmah) is one of the principal characteristics of the believer (mu'min). However, moderation does not imply compromising of principles or purposely falling short in the fulfillment of established religious obligations.

2. INTERNAL-ORIENTED POLICIES

A. Immediate Attention

- Rejection of terrorism and terrorist organizations.
- Rejection of religious extremism and radicalism.
- Rejection of secular extremism or secular radicalism.
- Promotion of the principle and practice of moderation in religious life.
- Promotion of good governance, rule of law and equality before the law.
- Promotion of political participation, representative government or democratic reforms.
- Upholding the principle and practice of the separation of powers, independence of the judiciary and supremacy of justice.
- Promotion of National Integrity Plan to combat and eradicate corruption and mismanagement in public and private sectors.

- Promotion of inter-religious and inter-civilization dialogues with the East and the West.
- Promotion of the idea of peaceful Jihad in many dimensions, i.e. Economic Jihad, Educational Jihad, Intellectual Jihad, Ecological Jihad, Moral Jihad, Jihad Against Poverty, Crime, Drugs, HIV/AIDS etc.

B. Top Priority

- Promotion of a comprehensive, civilisational and contemporary approach (manhaj hadhari) in the development of Muslim society as a strategy for achieving the objectives of Enlightened Moderation. The programme of "Islam Hadhari" followed in Malaysia is an example of such a comprehensive approach based on the fundamental principle of *Iman and Taqwa of Allah*.
- Promotion of the Caring Society based on the Islamic principles of social justice, compassion and egalitarianism.
- Review and reform of Muslim religious education towards a more balanced, holistic and integrated Islamic education, incorporating the fardu'ain and fardu kifayah dimensions.
- Eradication of poverty, illiteracy and child labour or enslavement.
- Promotion of morally sound programmes, films, T.V., cinemas, Internet and controlling the influence of negative elements.
- Rejection of fitnah (slander, defamation) in political culture, media or the Internet.
- Outlawing of deviant teachings, practices and cults by religious authorities.

C. Long Term

- Commitment to life-long education and the mastery of all branches of knowledge.
- Promotion of high ethical values in all aspects of social and national life towards the realization of a Moral Society.
- Changing the narrow and exclusivistic mindset of Muslim groups (jama'ats).
- Promotion of the positive contributions of Islamic civilization in Spain to the West and humanity, in terms of tolerance, peaceful coexistence of three Abrahamic faiths (Islam, Christianity and Judaism) and the development of science and technology by Muslim scholars and scientists.

3. EXTERNAL-ORIENTED POLICIES

A. Immediate Attention

- Avoidance of either confrontation or capitulation in dealing with Western powers.
- Strengthening the existing EU-OIC relationship and forging OIC-Japan, OIC-Korea, OIC-China, OIC-South America relationships and dialogues.
- Rejection of equation of Islam with terrorism.
- Creation of conducive environment or incentives for the West or East Asian countries to provide assistance, funding or transfer of technology towards

ameliorating or accelerating the socio-economic development of Muslim countries.

- Promotion of a balanced and radiant image of the true values and principles of Islam through all available means and channels.

B. Top priority

- Creating awareness among western leaders and public a) that Islam had a positive role in the rise of modern Western civilization and b) they have a moral obligation to uplift socio-economic development of countries in the South.
- Drawing the attention of the international community to the dangers posed by the influence of Zionism, Neo-Conservatism, aggressive Christian Evangelicalism, Jewish extremism, Hindu extremism and secular extremism in international affairs and the "War on Terrorism".
- Reliance on diplomacy, international courts of justice and refraining from recourse to the use of force or unilateralism in the resolution of international crises.

C. Long Term

- Entrench the principles of international solidarity in order to bridge the economic and knowledge gap between the rich and the poor; and the North and the South.

4. PROGRAMMES

A. Islamic Religious Education

In addition to the teaching of Islamic aqidah and ibadah, Islamic religious education should aim at promoting the awareness of the following:

- That the Islamic norms and teachings oblige the Muslims to practice the virtues of peace (salam), moderation (tawassut), tolerance (tasamuh), consultation (shura), justice (adalah), balance (tawazun), patience (sabr), freedom (hurriyyah), equity (musawah), brotherhood (ukhuwwah), compassion (rahmah).
- That the Muslim community is meant to be the "best of communities" (khairu ummat) in terms of good conduct and exemplary contribution to human welfare, and "a mercy to all mankind" (rahmatan lil-alamin) in its relationship with the rest of the world. However, the Muslims are encouraged to seek knowledge and wisdom from all civilizations in the East and in the West.
- That all peaceful efforts and non-violent strivings to promote the wellbeing and progress of the Muslim Ummah or humanity are to be regarded as JIHAD.
- That diversity amongst individuals, cultures, religions and civilizations is to be accepted as an inducement to learn from and about each other, to respect the differences, and to promote peaceful interaction, cooperation and dialogue.
- That Islam upholds the values of human dignity and recognize the equal opportunity of human beings of different religions in inter-personal relationships, in maintaining harmonious interfaith relations and in the entire process of international decision-making.

- That all good works of Muslims and efforts or programmes of Muslim governments to improve the living standards and quality of life of Muslims, to accelerate the socio-economic development of the people, to project a positive image of Islam and Muslims constitute a form of worship (ibadah) to Allah in the larger sense of the word.
- That Muslim females have equal rights as Muslim males and that both are required to pursue knowledge, be given equal opportunities to excel in their respective fields of specialization.
- That the study of natural sciences and their branches is an obligation for all Muslim children in order to understand the wonderful "signs of Allah" in nature and in the whole universe and to harness them for the betterment of human beings.
- That the proper training of teachers and production of textbooks of Islamic religious education to prepare children for the challenges of religious pluralism, globalization, the knowledge-based economy, the revolution of IT and the Moral Society are urgently needed.

B. Islamic Research Institutes, Intellectuals and Scholars

- To produce and articulate a systematic and fresh Islamic political theory and international relations based on the Qur'an, the Sunnah, the Islamic heritage, the contemporary social sciences and a thorough understanding of the realities of the present world and the Muslim Ummah.
- To produce books on the heritage of Islamic Civilization in Spain, the Balkans, Central and South Asia and other parts of the world which focus on inter-religious harmony and tolerance, Muslim economic development and Muslim contributions to the development of modern sciences and technology.
- To promote and disseminate the positive or shari'ah compliant aspects of contemporary modernity and modernization, to be distinguished from the negative or repugnant aspects.
- To undertake research and necessary studies to demonstrate that Islamic principles and values are not in conflict with but are in fact compatible with and reinforce the loftiest human values contained in the current modern international discourse.
- To promote the Islamic principles of respecting cultural, religious and civilisational pluralism as well as the practice of strictly adhering to these principles over the ages. It should be highlighted that Muslim thinkers were the pioneers of dialogue among civilizations and comparative religions in the history of the world.

C. The Media

- To develop the potential of the Muslim media (print and electronic) to become a powerful tool for educating, enlightening and empowering the ummah.
- Intensify the publication of Islamic materials through the collaboration of print and electronic media so as to enhance the awareness of the values of Islam among the global community as well as the Ummah itself.

D. Communication, Outreach and Da'wah Organisations

- To reflect to the world the universality of Islamic teachings and values.

- To promote Islam and Muslims as constituting a contemporary civilization which recognizes and respects the diversity of cultures, religions and civilizations.
- To work together to effectively counter the anti-Islamic propaganda in the international media.
- Promote the idea that the campaign against terrorism can only be won through comprehensive and balanced measures, in particular by squarely addressing the root causes of terrorism, including poverty, intolerance, injustice and foreign occupation.
- Improve the method of da'wah by using the up-to-date technology to spread the message of Islam to the Ummah in the popular media and popular culture particularly Internet.
- Engage international journalists in intellectual and humane discourse.

E. Education and Peace

- Promote the quality of teachers, better curricula and educational materials for Islamic educational institutions as part of the efforts to prepare the Ummah to meet the new positive and negative consequences of the globalization process.
- Integrate modern science and technology, as well as information and communication technology, into Islamic educational institutions.

F. Role of Women and Children

- Support all undertakings to enhance the capacity and the role of women in the Muslim community in accordance with Islamic values of equality and justice for the betterment of human kind.
- OIC or any member state to organize regular international conferences on the Progress of Women and children in a Muslim country or outside the Muslim World.

G. Implementation of these recommendations will rest with Member States, in their national programmes and priorities, and collectively through the General Secretariat and its subsidiary bodies and organs, under the direction of the Secretary General of the OIC who will furnish periodic reports on its implementation and progress, to the ICFM, obtaining where required the information and views of the member states in respect of suggested national implementation. For this purpose, it is further recommended that the Secretary General set up a mechanism within the General Secretariat for assisting in the implementation and reporting on the follow-up to the strategy of Enlightened Moderation proposed by President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan.

DOCUMENT 3 - OIC REFORM AND RESTRUCTURING

CHALLENGES:

i) Structural flaws and lack of political will within the OIC.
ii) Inability of the OIC as an Islamic organization to prove its relevance in today's world and the need to rejuvenate it.
iii) Inability of the OIC to implement the resolutions agreed upon.
iv) Inability to implement agreed programmes due to lack of funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

OIC Charter

i) OIC must be restructured, reformed and revitalized, including necessary changes in OIC charter and its name.
ii) Maintenance of criteria for membership to preserve and promote its Islamic character.

Office of the Secretary General

i) OIC Secretary General's role should both be strengthened and fully supported. He should be given the full authority both to employ and terminate the services of OIC personnel including restructuring existing departments.
ii) OIC General Secretariat should recruit officials on merit, nominated by those Member States, which make regular contributions and should be offered attractive financial incentives.
iii) The Secretary General could consider appointing his Special Representatives , both for fact finding as well as resolution of conflicts/disputes
iv) OIC's relations with important international/regional organizations should be strengthened and fully utilized to actively voice all Muslim causes

New Departments

i) The OIC should renew its emphasis on issues such as conflict resolution; inter-faith dialogue; human rights; democracy; good governance and combating Islamophobia, etc.

ii) The OIC Secretary General should enhance the capacity of the General Secretariat through restructuring to deal effectively with subjects such as, Islamic thought; enlightened moderation, higher education with a focus on science and technology, health care and women's development.

iii) Therefore, the OIC General Secretariat would establish departments of Conflict Resolution, Enlightened Moderation, Women Development, NGOs and Muslim Minorities and a Strategic Planning Unit, and consortium of higher education.

iv) An OIC Think Tank to promote Islamic thought to respond effectively to ideological and intellectual challenges of the 21st Century and to interact

more proactively with universities and intellectuals in the West. Members of the Think Tank should also include personalities who have expert knowledge of the problems of Muslim communities in their particular regions and countries.

New Observer Missions

Establish new overseas Missions of the OIC Secretariat

Restructuring of Existing Departments

i) Restructuring of Dawa department and establish Dawa and Islamophobia department.
ii) IINA should be activated for projection of OIC position.
iii) A strong Information Department at the OIC Secretariat should be established to assist the OIC Secretary General for projection of OIC and updating of the OIC website.
iv) Strengthening the Department of Palestine and Jerusalem in the light of new OIC vision.

Implementation of Resolutions

i) Member States must demonstrate strong political commitment and provide the requisite financial backing to implement Summit and Ministerial resolutions, within specified timeframe

ii) An executive body, comprising Summit and Ministerial Troikas, the OIC host country and the Secretary General, should be expeditiously established to implement Summit and Ministerial resolutions. The concerned Member States should be invited to participate in the deliberations of these meetings.
iii) A Council of Permanent Representatives of OIC member states in Jeddah should be established for an effective coordination, implementation and follow-up.

Executing Agency: OIC General Secretariat

Financial Arrangements, including Voluntary Funding:

i) Member States must pay their assessed mandatory contributions on time and in full.
ii) Penalties should be imposed on those Member States that have defaulted on their mandatory annual contributions for three consecutive years such as suspension of rights to table resolution or participate in decision-making, to avail IDB facilities and services, and enjoy recruitment privileges.
iii) The budget of OIC and its subsidiary bodies should be progressively increased to the level of comparable organizations to make it more effective.

iv) In addition, new proposals for voluntary funding for OIC's activities should be explored. An endowment could be created through donation of land by affluent OIC Member States and construction of buildings on those lands, which are financed by the IDB.

v) Stringent and transparent financial procedures should be adopted by the Secretariat.

Appendix

MEMBERS OF THE OIC COMMISSION OF EMINENT PERSONS

1. HE Dato' Seri Syed Hamid Albar,
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, .. Chairman

2. HE Dr. Cheikh Aboubacar Doukoure ..
Commissioner (Burkina Faso)

3. HE Mr. Ahmed Kamal Abou El Magd ..
Commissioner (Egypt)
(Represented by: H.E. Mr. Hussein K. Haridy,
Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to
Islamabad)

4. HE Dr. Omar Jah ..
Commissioner (Gambia)

5. HE KH Ahmad Hasyim Muzadi ..
Commissioner (Indonesia)

6. HE Gholamali Khoshroo ..
Commissioner
(Islamic Republic of Iran)

7. HE Senator Zhaibakhan Abdildin ..
Commissioner (Kazakhstan)

8. HE Prof. Dr. Mohd Kamal Hassan ..
Commissioner (Malaysia)

9. HE Prof. Tajeddine Al-Housseini ..
Commissioner (Morocco)

10. Commissioner from Nigeria (did not attend)

11. HE Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed .. Commissioner
(Pakistan)

12. HE Ambassador Ahmed Al Farra .. Commissioner
(Palestine)

13. HE Sheikh Abdul Rahman bin Abdullah bin Zaid ..
Commissioner (Qatar)
Al-Mahmood

14. HE Mr. Jamil Al-Hujeilan ..
Commissioner (Saudi Arabia)

15. HE Mr. Moustapha Cisse .. Commissioner (Senegal)

16. HE Prof. Abdul Rahim Ali Ibrahim .. Commissioner (Sudan)

17. HE Ambassador Dr. Ahmet Davutoglu .. Commissioner (Turkey)

18. HE Dr. Abdul Karim Ali Yahya Al-Eryani .. Commissioner (Yemen)

Ex-officio Member

HE Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu,
OIC Secretary General.